WORLD SOCCER

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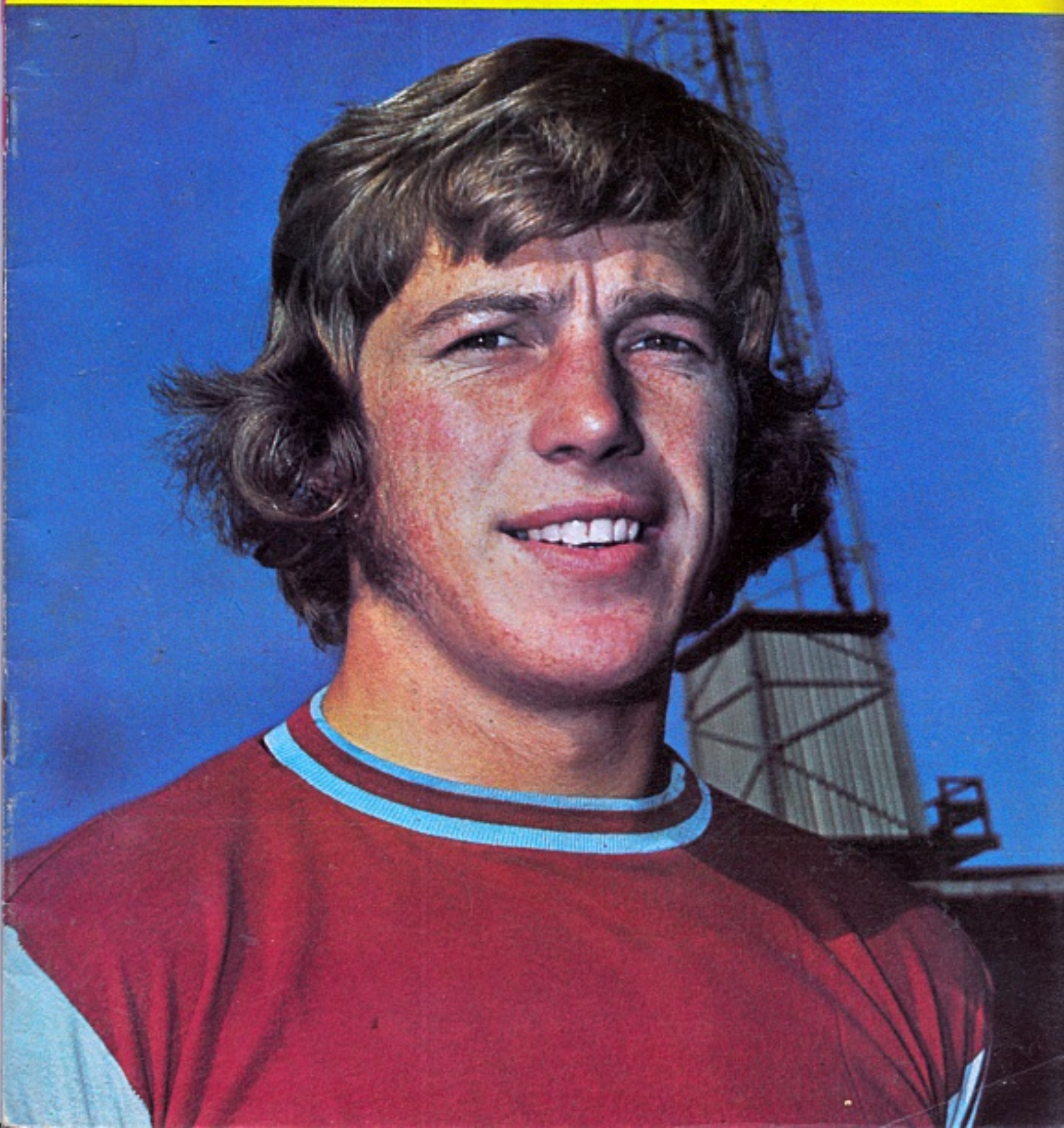
The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

MARCH 1972



RODNEY MARSH Q.P.R. (left) and DAVE MACKAY Swindon

WORLD SOCCER
incorporating SOCCER STAR
The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

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Leeds deserve praise

DON REVIE, manager of Leeds United, is convinced that his team do not receive the credit they deserve; particularly in the south of England. It would be difficult to argue with that claim.

But anyone who saw their performance against Manchester United recently (when they hammered their illustrious opponents 5-1 at Elland Road) could hardly fail to admire that display. Admittedly, the Manchester club failed yet again to reach the heights maintained earlier in the season, but Leeds were superb.

It is amazing how few changes have taken place in the side in recent seasons. The consistency of the team, both individually and collectively, is incredible.

For a number of years Leeds have been envied by other clubs for their "professionalism", their machine-like efficiency and strength in defence. All of these qualities still exist but Leeds now seem much more willing to let their tremendously gifted players express themselves in other ways.

Eddie Gray can be as exhilarating as George Best; Peter Lorimer, Allan Clarke (a much more complete player these days) and Mick Jones dovetail magnificently with devastating effect; and the guile and adroitness of Billy Bremner and Johnny Giles can provide a memorable spectacle.

One has grown accustomed to seeing Leeds win matches. Watching them lately has also given me great satisfaction and enjoyment. One day, surely, they must make a true impression in Europe.

The European Cup is certainly not beyond their grasp. The tragedy of course, is that the record books will never accurately record their achievements over the past six or seven years. Victory in the European Cup would bring them the sort of place they deserve.

We apologise to readers for the late delivery of WORLD SOCCER this month but production of the magazine was delayed during the recent curb on electricity.

COVER PICTURE

Tommy Taylor, the young West Ham United centre-half, has carved a fine reputation for himself this season. Since joining West Ham from Orient, this fair-haired Londoner has learned quickly and must now be in line for an Under 23 cap. Perhaps we shall even see him playing alongside Bobby Moore for England as well as West Ham.

FORESIGHT LACKING!

THERE is a story going the rounds, which I would like to hear disproved but fear is only too accurate, that Dr. Gössmann, President of the West German F.A. recently wanted to telephone the Football Association in London. His secretary was out of the office, and for some reason the good Doctor could not find the F.A.'s phone number. Not to be deterred, however, he got his switchboard to call the London Exchange and discover the number there. A moment later a harrassed girl on the switchboard buzzed him back: "they say it's ex-directory" she said, "and they won't give it to us."

"Well ask to be put through anyway," said Dr. Gössmann, "tell them who we are."

"It's no good," came the reply a few minutes later. "The operator's been through to their number and they won't take calls. They say they don't know us."

Now Dr. Gössman has a reputation in Germany for being a bit of a bumbler, but at least his Association, and indeed almost every other Association on the Continent, can claim to be a little more clear-sighted than the English F.A. They are the only Association as far as I know whose telephone number is jealously guarded from members of the public—until the *Sunday Times* printed it recently and brought upon themselves a baleful letter from the F.A. Secretary, Dennis Follows. But then perhaps the F.A. need to keep their switchboard inaccessible, otherwise it might well be jammed with protest calls a good few occasions each year.

Sympathies

Now I don't know why Dr. Gössmann tried to call the English F.A., but I imagine it was not entirely disconnected with the discussions that went on for several weeks concerning the date set for the European International Championship tie between England and West Germany—a date, apparently, which presented the English F.A. with an unexpected problem.

But then my sympathies lie entirely with Lancaster Gate in this affair. It becomes clear from the beginning that UEFA did not allow anything like enough time for England to arrange their league and international fixtures to prevent a clash. After all, it is only since July 1966, that's just five years and eight months ago, that the UEFA Executive Committee meeting in some obscure, remote place called London decided to *hold a European International Championship quarter-final on the last weekend in April.* And they left the date of the second leg until very late indeed—it was not until their meeting in Paris on November 14, 1970, that this was fixed for the weekend of May 13/14 1972—a mere 19 months notice. How could any reasonably efficient football association possibly cope with dates suddenly thrust upon them with such undignified haste?

Competition

The answer is that not one, but all the other Associations were aware of, and took steps to comply with, these precise dates for the quarter-finals of the Nations competition. The French F.A., who might have been excused for overlooking the possibility of their national side reaching the last eight, even went so far as to publish three possible fixture lists for the season's domestic games, covering such eventualities as elimination at the qualifying stage, elimination at the quarter-final stage, and participation in the final rounds. Their team of course did not manage to eliminate Hungary and Bulgaria, so the alternative draft fixtures were not needed; *but they had been prepared.*

The West Germans, like the other countries involved in the quarter-finals, left the particular weekends in April and May vacant. Therefore had the English F.A. been successful in prevailing upon them to play the previous Wednesday, April 26, it would have ruined their week of preparations, and indeed left their clubs with a pointless vacant Saturday, with a ten-day gap in the league programme serving no purpose at all.

Yet there were suggestions in the British press, possibly inspired by officials at Lancaster Gate, that the Germans were in some way not playing the game (literally, I suppose, as well as metaphorically) in refusing to switch the date of the first leg to midweek. In Frankfurt, however, the request was regarded incredulously by the Germans, and it took some considerable diplomacy behind the scenes to prevent their committee from rejecting the request more brusquely than they did.

Calendar

Now I can see only six possible reasons why the English F.A. should fail to make provision for one of the major fixtures in the international calendar. They are:

1. No-one had told them.
2. UEFA had told them but the letter was filed and forgotten.
3. They did not expect England to reach the quarter-finals.
4. They were confident of persuading their opponents to play in midweek.
5. They could not persuade the Football League to agree to a vacant Saturday in April.
6. They were party to an agreement with the Pools Promoters Association which laid down the number of consecutive Saturdays on which league matches would be played.

I feel it is fair to assume that UEFA did in fact communicate the schedule for the competition to the English F.A., and that the precise date did register in the minds of their officials. It seems to me rather unlikely, not to say unpatriotic, that the F.A. were convinced

Ladies play on!

WHILE League football has been banned in Egypt, the regulation evidently do not extend to the newly-formed women's team called, believe it or not, El Shams. They are coached by a leading professional, Hesham Afifi who puts them through their paces twice a week. "They are very obedient and very promising," he said, "and I'm astonished how quickly they grasped the essentials of the game. I don't say they could take on our best male sides, but they would certainly win any women's world championship."

The accuracy of his prediction remains to be seen, but meanwhile the club's technical director, El Sayed Aly Imam, has his hands full arranging opponents—who so far have to be imported for the occasion. For Egypt still have only one women's team and this is only the second in their history. The first, a branch of the National Sporting Club, was founded in 1958 but quickly disbanded when the girls decided to follow the male custom of exchanging jerseys on the field . . .

England could be left in the cold

A GREAT deal was said in World Soccer last month about the so-called mini-World Cup tournament which will be staged in Brazil this summer, and the conclusions were not entirely fair to the Brazilian F.A. I feel it goes without saying that the CBD or their representatives must inevitably benefit in terms of prestige, possibly even in revenue, out of such a tournament, but this would seem only reasonable in exchange for the efforts they have made to organise it properly.

If England have been criticised in the Brazilian press, it has been primarily because of the dilatory way they have approached the problem of sending a team, after the dates of the tournament had been changed expressly to allow them to play in both the European Championship finals and the mini World Cup. All the reasons advanced for England's absence are, I feel, entirely spurious, for if clubs are apparently willing to release Scottish players for the duration, they would presumably have no objection to their English colleagues joining them in Brazil.

Moreover, I doubt whether any England international would not have changed his holiday plans to take part in such an event. The problem again seems to be some unwritten agreement extracted from the F.A. by the Football League, exchanging co-operation in 1972 for co-operation in the more vital World Cup year of 1974. Once again the tail wags the dog, and, irony of ironies, defeat by West Germany would leave England without a serious match until the Autumn.

of England's impending failure in the qualifying stages, considering that their opponents consisted of Malta, Greece and Switzerland. And it seems naive, to put it mildly, to expect other countries to be amenable to a change of date when all of them were setting aside the last weekend in April for an international of some kind.

It would appear rather more likely that the Football League objected strongly to any such vacant Saturday, suggesting that it was, in the first place, for a hypothetical match, secondly that England could always persuade their opponents to alter the date, and that thirdly the Pools agreement specified a league programme on every Saturday in April. If that was so, then a proportion of the revenue secured under such an agreement might to the inexpert observer appear to have been obtained unfairly—because the number of people filling in their coupons must surely be reduced when the pick of the First Division matches are wiped off the calendar at short notice after the England squad is announced.

Copyright

Moreover the Football League fixtures ought to be referred under the Trades Descriptions Act, since on the date of their publication the holders of the copyright must have known that (a) England were overwhelmingly likely to play on that particular Saturday in April; that (b) Football League clubs were compelled under the F.A. regulations to release players on that day; and that (c) a substantial number of matches would have to be postponed directly as a result. It also means that season ticket holders, who in some cases travel long distances to watch their favourite teams, will be deprived of an extra match—because they will be unable to attend the re-arranged floodlit game after leaving work.

'I can see only six possible reasons why the English FA should fail to make provision for one of the major fixtures in the international calendar'

The root cause of this confusion which makes the English F.A. look extremely foolish on the Continent is the continuing struggle for power between the League and the Association. Conflict of interest is inevitable, but it would better be resolved, I feel, by an amalgamation between the two bodies than by repeated squabbling behind the scenes. After all, the West Germans, and even the Italians these days, seem able to run a strong national league without running down their international side after each World Cup. Unfortunately, any such amalgamation, or even a greater spirit of co-operation, would depend in the first place on Messrs. Hardaker and Follows, one of whom would have to concede his crown to the other. Even in a mood of wild optimism, I cannot see either of them ever doing that.

WORLD DIARY

by ROGER MACDONALD

'Football followers' jailed

THREE so-called Arsenal supporters, who made use of the package tours to Switzerland for the European Cup-tie against Grasshoppers and England's international match, have ended up in jail for attempted robbery.

One of the men was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, and the other two to nine months, following their attempt to steal a diamond ring worth nearly £5,000 from a Zurich jewellers on October 15. The attempt misfired when a woman passer-by window-shopping saw what was happening through the plate glass and raised the alarm.

Two of the men were arrested immediately but the third escaped—without the jewel. However he returned with the Arsenal supporters for the match with Grasshoppers the following week . . . and found the Swiss police waiting for him.

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glentoran	14	8	4	2	37	12	20
Portadown	14	9	2	3	29	13	20
Linfield	15	7	6	2	33	18	20
Ards	14	7	3	4	28	16	17
Distillery	15	8	5	4	25	27	17
Coleraine	14	5	5	4	31	27	15
Crusaders	14	5	5	4	21	25	15
Glenavon	15	5	4	6	25	28	14
Ballymena	13	5	3	5	21	18	13
Derry	14	2	7	5	28	32	11
Bangor	15	1	3	11	14	45	5
Cliftonville	15	1	2	11	13	45	5

League place the priority

COLIN ADDISON had made 366 Football League appearances up to the end of last season, and it would be surprising if the recently appointed manager of Hereford United were not to add to this total next season. At 31, he is still displaying many of the skills which made him a man in demand by First Division clubs, and has added to his bow a new, and not inconsiderable string—that of boss of the most ambitious and successful side outside the Football League. Hereford's remarkable F.A. Cup exploits against Newcastle and West Ham—redoubtable members of England's elite—has merely served to underline the potential of the club. They seem set to become the fourth "United" in a dozen years to force a way into the Fourth Division, following in the footsteps of Peterborough, Oxford, then Cambridge United.

"Maybe we haven't hammered the doors down," says Addison, "but we have done enough to back our case with performances which must add to our prestige."

The prestige and reputation of the club, managed by former Welsh international John Charles until shortly after the start of the present season, was sufficient to earn 22 votes at the Football League annual general meeting last June. The average Edgar Street gate in 1970-71 worked out at 5,224—better than eight Third Division and 15 of the Fourth Division clubs. And the playing record was one of consistent achievement, although Hereford still seek the Southern League title to back their claims.

Sympathy

A newspaper poll conducted among 22 First Division managers recently indicated that 19 of them were in favour of Hereford winning a League place. The power of voting, however, is vested with the chairmen of the League clubs, among whom the First and Second Division representatives have by far the greatest influence. Spoken support might not be the same as voting support . . . but it would be a major shock, nevertheless, if Hereford failed to muster enough votes to haul themselves in, albeit at the expense of some poor re-election supplicant for whom there will be some passing sympathy.

The Cup run has provided the best publicity yet for a club who have never been short of ideas about spreading their name. They employed a public relations consultant—with experience of football—to help conduct their campaign for League membership last year. And they have picked up plenty of tricks of the trade themselves. Lavish brochures, personal contact with League clubs, visits made and received, have all helped.

Amidst all the euphoria and accompanying trumpeting, one or two sour notes have been struck. One national Sunday newspaper columnist chose to ride against the stream of press and public and professional opinion and announced that Hereford should stay in their own backyard. At least, that's what his sneering, condescending attitude implied, although it was put rather less kindly than that.

Cambridge United manager Bill Leivers struck a more sober note when he warned of the pitfalls. He knows well enough, having guided Cambridge into the Fourth Division mainstream via the Southern League. Winning that competition for two years running proved to be very little value when it came to adjusting to the demands of the League.

This isn't to say that Hereford do not have a team good enough; most of the side could hold their own, no doubt. But there are problems. For Hereford, one immediate worry would be the necessity to switch to full-time training. At the moment only Addison is full-time, and many of the players have good jobs which can bring in £30 a week or more to supplement the £25—30 they get as Hereford part-timers.

No Fourth Division club could realistically afford to pay its players a basic £50 or £60 a week. And Hereford, £25,000 richer for their F.A. Cup run, and sitting on a healthy financial situation even before all this started, still wouldn't want to toss around money like water. Among other things, they have a £20,000 scheme in hand to build a new stand and eventually plan to accommodate 20,000—all under cover.

There are many additional expenses, such as the costly business of registering players for the League, the higher transfer fees one has to pay, and so on. But Addison hasn't done badly with his market dealing so far. He admits he inherited the basis of a fine side, but his two new recruits, Ivan Hollett and Calvin Palmer, show him to be a shrewd assessor of bargain-priced talent.

Hereford, incidentally, also paid Sheffield United £3,000 for Addison—thus ringing up a cash register of

Hereford United goalkeeper Potter saves from MacDonald of Newcastle United during the FA Cup replay won by Hereford.

On the Bosses
COLIN ADDISON
by
MARTIN ROGERS

£100,000 paid for the Taunton-born inside forward-turned-midfield man during his career. He began at York City, where he scored 27 goals in 87 appearances, before being sold to Nottingham Forest for £12,000. After 159 appearances and 61 goals there he moved to Arsenal for £45,000. His Highbury record of 27 games and 9 goals was followed by a £40,000 move to Sheffield.

When the Bramall Lane outfit won promotion to the First Division at the end of last season, Addison, now 31, was still a member of the first team squad. He had made 93 appearances in the senior side and scored 22 goals. But at the start of the new season the side went unchanged for a dozen matches and Addison wasn't in on the party. With Sheffield taking the First Division by storm, it didn't look as though he would be recalled, so the Hereford offer could not have been better timed.

Contract

Livewire Hereford chairman Frank Miles, 38, saw in Addison the qualities which typify the club itself. "He's young, ambitious and forward-thinking," was the chairman's assessment and a £3,000 contract and the chance to break into management proved to be a convincing lure.

"It has been a crash course," admits Addison. "When I took over, there were a few things to change, a few new ideas to bring in. But basically we had a sound team, with several good former League professionals like Tony Gough and Kenny Mallender, and our own discoveries like Dudley Tyler. I decided to switch to midfield so that I could play some sort of influence of the way things were going and we took it from there."

Taking it from there, as Addison puts it, took the side through the next 18 games without defeat. Their challenge for the Southern League championship and the League Cup, then the F.A. Challenge Trophy, all blossomed—and the F.A. Cup, the big one, came along as an added bonus. And what a bonus!

"The greatest moment in my life," gasped Addison in between the popping of the champagne corks after United had dumped mighty Newcastle out of the third round before 15,000 Cup-crazy fans. "The boys were magnificent. Surely we have proved our right to a League place?"

But the dream had to end sometime, somewhere. To draw away, then to beat a First Division side at home, followed by another pulsating draw against West Ham four days later, was enough to rip home the message that Hereford are ripe and ready as a cider apple. The final, inevitable defeat at Upton Park hasn't diminished Addison's faith.

The jubilant Hereford players after their memorable victory over Newcastle United. Colin Addison is the player top right.

However, he remains a strict realist. "We have to get back to proving ourselves the best in our own sphere" he remarked after the Cup ball was over. "That means some re-adjustment, and a lot more hard work for the rest of the season."

Good support

The man accepts that there will be disappointments to follow. Even if the triumphal march through for the rest of the season can be maintained, even if the Old Pals Act can be beaten down in order to enable Hereford what seems a rightful place in the Football League, that's just the beginning of the story.

"It's a beginning for me and for Hereford United," he says. "We can do well in the League, and command good support, I'm sure of it—but this is just the start".

For Addison, at least, the future seems assured. His men have pulled magnificently for him and it's no coincidence that he should be around for this, the club's finest hours so far. Frank Miles and his fellow directors are sure to pull the strings to make sure that Mr. Addison is around for a long time, too.

Sophisticated

If Hereford do maintain their march —and, remember, they are if anything slightly better placed than were Oxford at a corresponding stage a decade ago—the Addison success story is likely to be bound up with the overall picture. That's when the man could find himself being sought out as a possible guide of more sophisticated talents.

That's jumping the gun, maybe. But nobody will regard Hereford or any of its inhabitants—least of all the soccer sons—as being slow-moving backwoodsmen . . . never again. Not since Colin Addison arrived at the country's biggest little club.

PHILIP EVANS reports from ITALY

JUVENTUS ON TOP BUT WILL IT LAST?

JUVENTUS still ride high. But for how much longer? They have done everything their supporters hoped they would do. They have played energetic, imaginative football, attacked cleverly, defended adroitly, provided more than their fair share of dynamics in terms of mid-field skill.

But now they have lost their young goalscorer Bettega, down with a chest ailment that threatens to keep out for the rest of the season. The other strikers, most particularly Anastasi, will undoubtedly rally round, but Bettega had found the knack of scoring almost at will, was bringing back memories of early triumphant days from the era of John Charles and Sivori. He will be sorely missed.

Outside chance

Cagliari have not been beaten for fourteen matches, in that period have amassed twenty-two points, now lying in second position equal with A.C. Milan and only two points behind Juventus. Riva is scoring goals again and it seems that on any day two of their plethora of mid-field players manage to strike good form. Scopigno, laconic to the end, gives his team an outside chance for the championship. Many of those as close to the game as he think their chances are excellent.

Inter seem to have overcome many of their troubles by playing the much maligned Pellizzaro on the right wing. For several seasons a goalscorer in his own right, the little man fitted in beautifully, dovetailed particularly well with Boninsegna, who consequently reaped a harvest of goals. But the shot in the arm was only that, doesn't seem to have provided a long term remedy to Inter's ills. Corso, Bertini, Jair, Bedin, have all had too many off days for Invernizzi's comfort.

Each time I mention A.C. Milan I have to say that they have been infuriating. Last year they thrashed the middle of the table clubs, held their own against immediate rivals and squandered points relentlessly against the sub-standard teams. So this season. If it is true that they have been badly struck by injuries—to Schnellinger, to Rosato, and most important to Prati—it is also true that the yseem to lack the killer instinct that goes well with Inter when they are in their nastiest moods. Bereft of Prati's goals they seem apologetic indeed in front of goal.

Talented and wayward

Florentina beat Milan by two clear goals, are still up there among the leaders, defend tenaciously, do many good things in mid-field, but at the last desperately need a goal scorer on form. Both Cleriel and Chiarugi are talented and wayward.

Napoli have had a good month, picking up points home and away with some of the ancients such as Sormani and Altafini playing like young men. But I am sure they miss the drive of Bianchi in mid-field more than they would care to admit and the defence has been less frugal than it was last year.

Bologna and Sampdoria very patchy. Atalanta have played some lovely football, particularly against the prestige teams, but need a quick handful of points to stop worrying about the possibility of relegation. Mantova and Varese seem doomed, but it would be sad if Catanzaro were to be relegated. Southern Italy has known no excitement quite like that displayed on the day on which Catanzaro beat Juventus by the odd goal. It all helps to keep the thing nice and open. But still, alas, far from clean. Of which more anon.

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Personal Opinion by LESLIE VERNON

That was the season that was!

A lighthearted, premature look at the 1971/72 campaign

NOW that the '71/72 season is over, I can say without fear of contraception that it has been one of the greatest in the game's history. We have seen the very best of British, Continental, International, Inter-Continental and Inter-Global football. A special word of praise must go to the Egyptians, whose league campaign only lasted two weeks, but they still managed to send off, arrest, shoot and quarter more players than all the other countries put together during the entire season.

Our own campaign opened with the clever no offside experiment in the Watney Cup. This ruse was specially designed to cut out controversy and unnecessary arguments. It worked to perfection, so much so that nowadays one hardly ever sees anyone drinking beer in an offside position.

Competition

However, I disagree with the proposition made by another brewery, who wish to sponsor a competition without goals or goalkeepers. They point out that most of the game's unpleasantness originates from goal-mouth incidents, consequently without goals we could enjoy a peaceful game of football.

As the Italians have been experimenting with this idea for years without any visible signs of lessening tension, there is no reason to introduce the concept here. In any case, we shouldn't allow brewers to run our national sport. Butchers—yes, brewers—no!

The referees' revolution got off to a bad start. As we know, in a democratic country, at least seven days' notice must be given for revolutions, and the whistlers failed to do this. Robespierre, Lenin and Castro also started uprisings without prior notice, and look what happened to them. French football is in a mess, Cuba never played in the World Cup, and the Russians can't bear to kiss each other even after scoring a goal.

Disrepute

Still, in my view, the refs.' rev. has been an unqualified success. Perhaps it didn't clean up the game, but provided substantial additional revenue for the GPO and British Railways. In fact, as from next season, there will be chartered excursion trains to take witnesses to disciplinary hearings, and Francis Lee will be allowed to travel free as a reward for services rendered.

I did enjoy the Cup Final, which was brilliantly refereed by Vernon Stokes, with Alan Hardaker and Len Shipman as linesmen. By then, of course, every single referee resigned because the League asked them to officiate according to the rules. This sort of thing is bound to bring the game into disrepute, and one cannot change one's habits overnight. A referee, weeping profusely, told me: "I have lost all my friends. Previously I tried to please the managers and the players, suddenly they send an assessor along, who doesn't understand the fine relationship I have managed to establish with the pros. People don't smile at me on the street any longer, and no one has patted my head for weeks. Yesterday I walked into a pub and I had to buy my own drinks. One has to draw the line somewhere!"

Inter have achieved the unique feat of annexing the European Cup without actually winning a single match. Their highly trained bottle-throwers did a fine job, especially in the Final, when early in the game they k.o.-ed the entire Inter defence. Facchetti, most unsportingly, kept on moving his head on the stretcher, but a handful of spaghetti silenced him for good.

Floodlighting

It is a pity that the European Championship Final had to be played off at 3 o'clock in the morning in a Pimlico car park. But as Dennis Follows explained, any other time or venue would have clashed with the later stages of the Tom Thumb Cup—there was clearly no alternative. Due to the poor floodlighting facilities, the match wasn't televised, but it did give an opportunity to shift-workers, croupiers, Bunnies and Stan Flashman to watch an important football match.

The arrival of two milk-carts made the playing of extra time impossible, so the two skippers decided the issue with a quick game of gin rummy.

Talking of floodlighting, I applaud the UEFA decision that only grounds with adequate facilities for colour television will be passed for International Cup matches. This legislation means that most of the ties will have to be played in nice, warm TV studios, and not out in the open where people might catch nasty colds. Obviously, the measurements of the pitches have to be altered, and probably the number of players cut down to about three per team. The most photogenic ones will be used with just a touch of make-up.

Deservedly the "Manager of the Year" award went to Jim Snide, whose superb diplomacy and eloquence persuaded the Disciplinary Committee to cancel 76 out of 77 bookings against his players. The caution given to the centre-back had to stand, because the Committee felt that this able defender shouldn't have pulled the referee's false teeth out and kicked them away in disgust, when a throw-in was awarded to the other side.

Charlady

When the official pleaded with him to bring the teeth back, he flatly refused and used a four-letter word. Manager Snide, two eminent QC's and the charlady from the Players' Union all stated that, in fact, the referee hit the player, who in turn swore at his own mother-in-law, who was sitting in the stand knitting a pair of socks for the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee. The case will now go in front of the Lord Chief Justice, who with the help of Derek Dougan, will arrive at a just verdict.

CHELSEA AIM FOR TREBLE

by PHILIP RISING

ALMOST two years ago, injury kept Alan Hudson out of the Chelsea team that met—and beat—Leeds United in the 1970 FA Cup Final. After escaping with a draw at Wembley, the Londoners defeated Leeds in the replay at Old Trafford. On both occasions Hudson was a spectator.

Chelsea are at Wembley again on March 4, when they face Stoke City in the League Cup Final, and Hudson will be eager to make up for his earlier disappointment. After a slow start to the current campaign, the Chelsea team as a whole and Hudson especially have gone from strength to strength.

A surprise elimination from this year's Cup Winners Cup competition at the hands of Swedish club Atvidaberg (Chelsea were the holders after beating Real Madrid in the 1971 final) seems to have acted as a spur to the side.

A long run of success in league competition as well as some fine performances in the FA Cup and the League Cup has boosted the team's confidence to such an extent that they feel—justifiably—that they can take on anyone. Hudson's own displays have been a key factor and once again this very talented youngster is on the path to a full England cap.

He was in the England Under 23 team that drew 2-2 with Scotland recently and came out of a game played under atrocious conditions with a good deal of credit. The London Press in particular are very pro-Hudson; ever keen to push forward his claims for further recognition at international level.

As long ago as 1970, of course, Sir Alf Ramsey was aware of the precocious Hudson. "There is no limit to what this youngster can achieve," Sir Alf is quoted as saying; a remark that has become as famous as Martin Peters being ten years ahead of his time.

Certainly Hudson has a good deal going for him. His work-rate is high; his ball control excellent; his passing ability first class. He wins a fair amount of possession, too, and has a fine change of pace that he uses all too rarely.

Like a great many of today's more promising young players, he tends to be a predominantly one-footed player; in Hudson's case his right leg does 90 per cent of the work.

But perhaps the biggest flaw in Hudson's game at present is his lack of goals. With his skill at beating opponents at close quarters, allied to a strong shot, he should figure more regularly as a scorer. In his first 32 League, League Cup and FA Cup matches this season, he had scored just three goals.

Although his main function in the team is to create chances rather than accept them, Hudson might be expected to utilise his wide range of skills in a greater variety of directions.

In fact, Chelsea's mid-field department as a whole is a little short on goal power. Charlie Cooke and Steve Kember are not renowned for putting the ball in the back of the net; all of which throws a heavy burden on Peter Osgood.

Chelsea's recent match against Leicester City at Stamford Bridge serves as a prime example. Chelsea completely dominated the mid-field regions. Hudson, Cooke and Kember, supplemented by John Hollins, swamped Leicester—who played five across the back—but with only Osgood up front the goals wouldn't come.

Whenever Osgood moved out of the middle, the lack of a second, recognised striker, became obvious. Without Tommy Baldwin, Chris Garland or Ian Hutchison to support him, Osgood has to do a good many chores that might otherwise not be expected of him.

More goals from Alan Hudson would be a a boon to Chelsea and, perhaps at Wembley, we shall see Alan with a keener eye for goal.

Hudson will surely make the full England team in the not-too-distant future but in the months leading up to the 1974 World Cup finals he will find the competition for a place in mid-field particularly strong. The current holders of places in the national squad—Martin Peters, Alan Ball and Colin Bell—have no intentions of abdicating and coming up with Hudson are Tony Currie and Trevor Brooking, to name but a couple.

Brooking has really caught my eye this season. He hasn't enjoyed the same sort of publicity as Hudson, but has made considerable progress. Two-footed, with a fine shot, Brooking beats players with a splendid economy of effort. His distribution is good and I wouldn't be surprised if he ultimately turns out to be a better all-round player than Hudson.

Colin Todd of Derby County in a race for possession with Trevor Brooking of West Ham United.

RFC BRUGES AHEAD

LEADING Standard-Liege all the way, RFC Bruges were still unbeaten at the half way mark in Belgium. With the club making it known that their players had been offered substantial bonuses all round if they take the title, supporters at 'De Klokke' organised auctions and draws in order to double up on the official bonus. From then on, things really began to swing their way with Standard, their closest challengers dropping points everywhere.

In the opening match of the second half of the campaign, Standard began by taking a two goal lead in ten minutes at home to Racing White, but the Brussels club levelled matters before the break and sneaked a 3-2 win. Meanwhile, Bruges were beating Union St. Gilloise by the same score and proceeded on their winning way with more successes away to Diest FC and at home to the regenerated RFC Liege.

By this time Standard were in serious difficulties through their inability to score goals. Manager Rene Hauss remained optimistic, claiming that his men had been plagued by injuries (which was true) and had been subjected to a great deal of hard luck with their finishing.

In the goal-less draw against CS Bruges, inside forward Sylvestre Takac hit the bar twice while other chances went begging.

Midfield dynamo

At home to bottom of the table Beerschot, Standard still couldn't score even when given an almost last minute reprieve with the referee awarding them a penalty. Takac again hit the bar! By this time, M. Hauss had finally decided to axe his two Swedish signings of last summer, Johansson and Svensson, and with the return to fitness of midfield dynamo Wilfried Van Moer, Standard won the local derby against Liege by 2-1.

Meanwhile at the bottom of the table a rare struggle has been going on to keep away from the last two places. With three wins in four outings Lierse SK pulled themselves out of trouble—at least for the moment—leaving Beveren, Waregem and Cup holders AC Beerschot to sort it out. They all have 4 wins and 4 draws each—and Waregem produced a real coup, beating FC Bruges 1-0, the leaders first defeat.

Benfica lead with Setubal trailing...

UNBEATEN in league games this season, Benfica hold a six point lead over their closest challengers Vitoria Setubal (seven over Sporting) and appear to be walking away with the title once more. At home to Setubal, Benfica produced a glorious first half hour during which time the Vitoria 'keeper Vaz stopped everything.

Later the game levelled out and Jose Henrique produced several good saves for Benfica and the match ended goal-less. The previous week, Setubal had been in fine form, hitting visiting Tirsense for six. Former Benfica star Torres got two, as did Arcanjo while Duda, a Brazilian who only played half the game, also got a pair.

At the half way mark, Benfica and several other clubs persuaded the authorities to allow a break, and those that wished to do so were permitted to bring forward one of their matches to slip in trips abroad. Benfica benefitted most, making a four game visit to Brazil that brought in $ US Dollars 80,000, two victories and two defeats.

Portuguesa (3-1) and Vasco da Gama were beaten (2-0) while defeats were sustained against FC Curitiba (0-2) and Flamengo (0-1). Without several first team regulars and Eusebio making the trip almost as a spectator, Baptista was injured against Curitiba and flew home for treatment which gave 19 years old reserve Jordao an opportunity to show his talent and be christened by the Brazilians—Eusebio II.

With three draws and a 2-0 home victory over Belenenses, Academica have improved their chances of avoiding the drop. Leixoes are on the bottom trailing by one point but immediately above them only two points separate seven clubs.

Personalities in the headlines include Brazilian centre forward Flavio who tops the scorers list with 15 goals (Artur Jorge and Torres 14 each) though his club trail 14 points behind Benfica; Janos Hrotko a former Hungarian who played for Sporting who has become manager of Leixoes and former Boavista boss Joaquim Meirim who was presumably sacked for 'leaking' the news reported last month about players wages being unpaid.

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'STONES THAT THE BUILDER REJECTED'

I CONTINUE to be fascinated by this whole question of stones that the builder rejected. I find it very reassuring, in this mechanical, computerised age, that the mesh of the Football League clubs' net is by no means so close as to embrace every fish. In other words, a young player turned down by one professional club can still quite happily console himself that he may still "make it" with another.

The tendency is to believe that the scouting system is now so efficient and intense that it just cannot happen. But scouts are only human and so very often deeply fallible. If you talk to Derek Dougan on the subject, he will laugh and say frankly that if you knew the kind of conversations which went on between managers about players, none of it could possibly surprise you.

This season, the phenomenon of John O'Mara is the latest to confirm that no cause is or need be lost till a player is in his middle twenties. Born at Bolton, O'Mara was briefly an amateur with Bury, was taken on and discarded by Gillingham; played for Margate and Wimbledon in the Southern League; was finally snapped up last season by Brentford—and we all know the rest of the story. At the time he was visited with a five-week suspension in late January, he had scored no fewer than 22 goals for the club and was being watched by any number of richer, bigger ones.

No wonder. The cases of Macdonald and McDougall had already made clubs aware of how much talent there was lurking in the depths of the lower Leagues. Malcolm Macdonald was, as we know, a modest full-back with Fulham, used occasionally in the forward-line, and signed by Luton Town for a mere £18,000. At the end of last season he went at an enormous fee to Newcastle United, where he has looked worth every penny.

Ted McDougall has yet to prove himself in a higher division, but his goal-scoring feats for Bournemouth this season have been remarkable, and the Liverpool clubs must be wondering how they allowed him to drift away.

Ian Hutchinson, whom Chelsea have severely missed this season, above all in the European Cup Winners' Cup, was another formidable striker who, having failed to interest his home club, Derby County, was allowed to drop into the Southern League, where Frank Blunstone, then with Chelsea, saw and admired him; no doubt remembering, in the case of O'Mara, just what undiscovered rough diamonds were to be found, in the Southern League.

Ray Kennedy, who cost Arsenal nothing when he came to them from the North East, was rejected by Sir Stanley Matthews when he was general manager of mere Port Vale. By the same token, Arsenal themselves allowed Keith Weller and John O'Rourke to elude them, when they were juniors, training at Highbury. Hugh Curran, now a Scottish international, went from one obscure club to another before he finally settled down with Norwich City, and was transferred for a large fee to Wolves.

Kennedy of Arsenal in action against Hutt of Huddersfield.

Ambitious

Certainly there are still the careers, such as Bobby Charlton's, which seem to move on oiled wheels, through schoolboy and youth international football, into the full international team. Yet even Bobby Moore, despite his record number of England youth caps, had a hard grind in the preceding years, when he was an ambitious rather than a brilliant schoolboy footballer; as he himself has admitted.

Sometimes it is a case of late development. Sometimes it is a question of a player changing his position. Steve Heighway would no doubt be prominently in the first category. But there is little doubt that clubs and their scouts do perpetually make mistakes, and that these errors are often the profit and consolation of other clubs. Indeed, there is a good case for believing that smaller clubs can owe to such errors their very existence, since they can "fatten-up" rejected talents to be sold to a big club and to keep them economically afloat.

LOOKING AT SOCCER

BRIAN GLANVILLE

Before the war, when scouting systems were highly approximate, and Major Buckley of the Wolves was the grand initiator, even more fish slipped through the net. Peter Doherty, the greatest Ulster footballer till George Best, was humiliated as a 15-year-old by his local club, Coleraine, when they virtually ostracised him during a friendly game, and made him give up his jersey when the late-comer he had replaced arrived. For a long while after that, Doherty played for nobody at all, and it took a good deal of insistence by a kindly friend before he was taken on by Glentoran. Thereafter, as we know, it was Blackpool, Manchester City, England and glory.

Milk cart

Eddie Hapgood, England's finest left-back between the two wars, was 18 years old and driving a milk cart round Bristol before Bristol Rovers deigned to give him a trial.

But above all I relish the story of Len Shackleton, a fragile Yorkshire boy playing on the eve of the second war for Arsenal's Enfield nursery team. Certainly Arsenal's scouts had done their job by sending this wonderfully talented, idosyncratic player to Highbury, but it was decided not to keep him. George Allison, the orotund — and rotund — manager took him into his office, told him the bad news (bad news, as it finally transpired, for Arsenal rather than for Shackleton) and, out of the patronising kindness of his heart, showed him a television set. They were very rare, then.

Misguided

Shackleton, no fool, took the point with all its implications and never forgot it. Arsenal's defence were made to pay heavily for that misguided moment, in the years that followed the war.

The moral, then, is that a young player should never despair. Rejection by one club, or even more than one, may simply be the prelude to affirmation with another.

How many more Hutchinsons and O'Maras are there to be found in non-League football?

George Best, pictured during Manchester United's memorable FA Cup tie against Southampton . . . Best scored twice in a 4-1 victory.

SEMAINE SPORTIVE, the Swiss magazine, recently published a devastating, anonymous appraisal of Italian football and its moral squalor. The writer had been to watch Juventus, supposedly the most glittering and attractive team of the Italian season, playing Mantua. He was thoroughly scornful both of the quality of the football, ultra-defensive, "with great areas of the pitch unoccupied," and of the attitude of the crowd.

The milieu in which the game is played does not, he regretted, allow these talented players to express themselves. "In a world where money and victory live side by side," he wrote, "their survival depends solely on their ability to adapt themselves to the realism of their national sport. . . .

"What was our surprise to discover such a difference between the football lovers of Spain and the biased supporters of Calcio. The steady, collective enthusiasm of Nou Camp or Chamartin gave way to a sound full of chauvinism. Inflamed by the victorious sallies of favourites, completely ignoring the other side's play, this Transalpine crowd demands only victory, however it be achieved.

"If the reasons for such an attitude are hard to explain, it still explains the realism demonstrated by their favourite teams. Calcio, which could in fact through the talent of its players be one of the most spectacular footballing sides in Europe, is in fact just a pretext to express the temperament of a people for whom victory represents the one consecration of a competitive sport."

How depressingly true. There is something rotten, indeed, in the state of Italian football; and by extension in the society which has produced it.

Even one as pro-Italian as myself must admit as much.

News from France
by ANDRE DUCLOS

Osim finds his feet but Joel struggles in Paris

LAST MONTH I told you how Joel, the black Brazilian centre-half, had joined Paris St. Germain. Alas, it cannot be said that he has made a very happy start. It is scarcely the big man's fault. In the first place, he had not played for a year, thanks to an injured leg; in the second, he is simply not used to the French way of playing, and laments the tight, man-to-man marking, the rigid responsibility of looking after one opponent and one only. He has dryly remarked that when your direct adversary goes off the field, you really do not know what to do; whether the best course would not simply be to follow him off!

His position is complicated by the fact that the Paris St. Germain is still shipping water. It would be hard enough for this experienced, powerful international to adapt, even if he were fully match fit. As he is not, it may be some times before we see the best of Joel; if we ever do.

But at least one foreign star of fame has adapted himself happily, after a bleak beginning, and that is Ivica Osim, the Strasbourg Yugoslav. Osim it was who had to leave the field and remain inactive for some months after a "tackle" by Norman Hunter in the Yugoslavia-England Nations Cup semi-final in Florence in 1968. Now the tall, blond Yugoslav is, of course, with the Alsatian club. When first he played, last season, the manager of Rennes, Jean Prouff, disparagingly observed: "I wouldn't even have him in my third league side." Paul Pramtz, the manager of Strasbourg, fortunately had faith in the large, immensely gifted player, who led the Yugoslav attack in the Tokyo Olympic tournament of 1964, and later became the brain of their forwards, in midfield.

Upper sector

He was unable, last season, to prevent his club being relegated from the First into the so-called zoned National Division—where he is indeed a prince in exile—but he has vitalised them during the present season. Keeping up an average of three goals a game, and tailed only by Avignon, there seems little to stop them returning to the upper sector: even if their crowds tend to hover, at home, around a disappointing 5,000.

Just how much Olympique Marseilles, despite their heavy summer purchasing, rely on another Yugoslav, Josip Skoblar, was shown during his recent three-week suspension, when they limped from draw to draw. Even the presence of their new Dutch international left winger, Verdonk, who has settled in quickly and well, was not enough to give them the punch they needed, and the usual 18,000 crowd saw them, *inter alia*, held 1-1 at home by Jean Prouff's Rennes; still in with a vague and notional chance of success.

Regular member

Nimes won 3-0 that day at Angoulême, their Rumanians, Pircalab and Voinea, well to the fore, and there is no doubt that the shrewd Kader Firoud has built a highly serviceable team with the minimal outlay of money.

Marseilles, whose motto towards the end of last season appeared to be, if it moves, buy it, haven't done with buying, yet. One of the players on whom they, and indeed various other clubs, have turned a covetous eye is the Nimes midfield player, Michel Mezy, a regular member of the international team, where he pairs off fruitfully with the Nantes man, Micael. It amuses him that Georges Boulogne's French teams have been criticised as being over-defensive when at the same time he and Henri Michel have been stigmatised as being each too keen on attacking; a "fault" they have now, between them, tried to put right.

Last season, besides Olympique Marseilles, Mezy was wanted by Atletico Madrid, who hoped the Spanish Federation would allow foreign players in, again, while Paris St. Germain, newly promoted, was one of the French clubs which would have liked to buy him.

Mezy was born in Nantes itself, loves to ride horses in the surrounding countryside, and is palinly very happy there, where his contract keeps him till 1973. At the same time he is aware that a professional must seize what he can, while he can. At the same time the provincial pressures which weigh on the local boy who makes good sometimes vex him. He occasionally sees, he says, things in the shop windows which he would like to buy, but does not, for fear of being criticised; he is even shy of playing tennis. He also knows, and has said, that if he played for a club like Marseilles he would be far less harshly marked, because there are so many other stars in the Marseilles team, and that he would finish a match, therefore, considerably less tired.

Driving manager

A vigorous, voluble young man, Mezy hides with all this a basically shy character. He owes much, he admits, to his driving manager, Kader Firoud, and Nimes this season in their bid to chase Marseilles for a championship which would be half-dead without them owe much to Michel Mezy.

A natural left-footer, first capped by France against Switzerland in Basel on May 3, 1970, Mezy goes forward by disposition, but succeeds in midfield through his exceptional skills. "I think technique is innate,' he says, "You either have it or you haven't got it, though you can improve it by working on it." Mezy has it . . . emphatically.

Another inexpensive team which has elicited much admiration is Nancy, whose shattering 4-1 win at Saint Ouen against poor Paris St. Germain confirmed their quality. They are very fit, very versatile, very functional. Joel would like them; they do *not* use a sweeper and man-to-man marking. The overlapping backs, Palka and Formica, were once forwards. In the firing line, the right-footed Castronovo, quick and elusive, and the left-footed Kuszowski—yet another Polish name in French football—are a dangerous pair. Altogether a fine revival by a club which for a number of years sunk into amateurism, before its rebirth as Nancy-Lorraine; a credit to Redin, their manager.

DOCHERTY BRINGS BACK SOME SMILES

Scottish Angle by ALEX GORDON

THE amazing array of talent put on public display by team manager Tommy Docherty this season has put a smile back on the face of Scottish soccer. Before the explosive arrival of Docherty as boss of Scotland's International team, the problems seemed to be mounting up at an impossible rate . . . the questions seemed unanswerable . . . the future, if there was one, looked grim.

But the vociferous Docherty, after being swept in on a tidal wave of hope thrown up by the long-suffering fans, has changed all that. With the international team becoming a sick joke in soccer circles, something drastic had to be done and the Doc has proved to be the man to make those sweeping changes.

After the sacking of Bobby Brown, Scotland's international dreams were to be found under an ever-mounting pile of rubble. Today, though, Scotland are suddenly one of the most sought-after and attractive teams in the world. They are a team with big ideas. I know Scottish fans have heard it all before. The promises and pledges of the past have been broken and their enthusiasm has been shattered.

Enthusiasm

But this time Scotland have no delusions of grandeur. Anything they achieve will be through hard work on the field by the players and master planning off it by Tommy Docherty.

After many years in the wilderness the SFA have stopped doing their ostrich act and appear to have swopped their apparent indifference for excitable enthusiasm. Proof of this is the fact that they are planning big for Scotland's centenary celebrations in 1973.

World champions Brazil will play at Hampden as the top attraction in a series of matches that will leave the Scottish fans breathless. The incredible thought of Scotland taking on the brilliant Brazilians and expecting to win would have been completely out of order just a year ago.

Not today, though! When the likes of Rivelino, Jairzinho, Tostao, Clodoaldo and that superb captain Carlos Alberto come to grace the Hampden turf they will face a team determined to put them through the soccer mill. This Brazilian game is vitally important to Docherty and his men.

Scotland, under Docherty's guidance, have been fairly successful, but everyone is wary of putting too much emphasis on recent results. The International picture is definitely brighter than it has been for over a decade, but a win in this match would convince EVERY Scot that this promise is one that will be kept.

The Doc has searched throughout Britain in an effort to find the men who will help him achieve his ultimate ambition of going on to emulate deadly rivals England lift the World Cup. Munich is two year away, but Brazil will be an excellent pointer as to how his plans are progressing and his team shaping.

West Germany, the team who terminated Scotland's interest in the 1970 World Cup when they outpointed them in their qualifying section, are also likely to take part in the centenary clashes. Again this will be a stern test for the Scots which is exactly what the Doc ordered.

The structure of Scotland's World Cup hopes are being built just now with matches at every level being arranged. It is these matches that have taught the Scottish fans to smile again.

Tommy Docherty's first match in charge of Scotland was against Portugal in a European Championship clash at Hampden and could go down in history as the game that brought the famous Hampden roar back to life. The Scots won 2-1 and, although it didn't affect their chances of qualifying, the fans streamed out in their thousands loudly hailing the merits of the Doc and his new team.

Advantage

Docherty, of course, couldn't have selected a better match in which to make his international debut as Scotland's manager, because he had been boss of Portuguese First Division side Oporto just a year prior to this match. He had a fair idea of the tactics the Portuguese would use and he also had the advantage of realising the dangers that would surely come from certain players.

Eusebio needed no introduction, of course, but seldom has the Black Panther been kept quiet during a match. In fact Eusebio was so out of things that he was substituted at the interval! After the game he complained of the tactics Scotland had used to keep him quiet, but even Portuguese press-men didn't agree with their legendary star.

It is a fact that Rangers' Sandy Jardine was almost playing in the same jersey as Eusebio he was so close to him throughout the first half, but Sandy was used in precisely the same role several weeks later in the other European Championship match against Belgium and the man he marked that night, Paul van Himst, had nothing but praise for the Scot's display.

Highlighted

In that same match, which Scotland won 1-0 through a goal by Derby County's John O'Hare, the talent at Docherty's disposal was highlighted. He brought in young Celtic star Kenny Dalglish for his first full 90 minutes in a Scotland jersey and the Parkhead babe returned the compliment with a solid, if not spectacular, display.

Docherty also played Aberdeen's 22-year-old skipper Martin Buchan and must have been left amazed by the consistency and maturity of this player. Buchan never put a foot wrong throughout the entire 90 minutes as he played sweeper beside Hibernian's Pat Stanton.

Brilliance

Jimmy Johnstone seems to have put his "I don't want to play for Scotland" statements well behind him and, in fact, laid on the winning goal against Belgium with a run of such brilliance that it left the defence bewildered and baffled and cruelly exposed for O'Hare to flick home his final inch-perfect cross.

There are other players obviously revelling in the managership of Tommy Docherty. Arsenal 'keeper Bob Wilson, allowed to play for Scotland under the recent FIFA rule, is already a great favourite with the fans. He is decisive and safe and exudes confidence. His inclusion in the Scottish team has sparked off a revival among other 'keepers and a department that looked so bare not long ago is now crammed with talent.

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by NAMES make NEWS

NORMA CUTLER

BERNABEU TO PEN HIS MEMOIRS?

DON SANTIAGO BERNABEU, the Grand Old Man of Madrid, always makes news with his pungent declarations. But this time he hits the headlines without uttering a word.

Strong rumours in official Madrid circles say that Real's President is writing his memoirs, which are confidently expected to blow the lid off Spanish football. They are said to contain the most explosive revelations and could even be called football's "J'Accuse". One commentator suggests they will be the "Peyton Place" (without the sex, of course) of Spanish and European football.

Disturbed

Some people, those with a conscience, are already scared stiff, others are worried as to what Don Santi's vitrolic wit and outspoken bluntness will reveal . . . and who will be named.

Many will welcome the book. They know that Bernabeu can, if he chooses, set the record straight about many of the controversial incidents, sensational intrigues, mysteries, "affaires" and scandals that have disturbed Spanish football over the last 50 years.

Santiago Bernabeu has been actively associated with football in Spain longer than any other man. He has grown up with the game which didn't even exist in Spain when he was born in 1895. His insistence of being independent and of being uninvolved at official levels (except for frequent biting criticism) and his avoidance of the corridors of power (outside the marble halls of Real Madrid) have made him the sage of Spanish football, a man of gravity and wisdom.

Over the years his advice has been constantly sought by various presidents of the Spanish Football Federation, struggling with the unmanageable monster that that organisation has become through discriminatory interests. He has become the confidant of Europe's greatest personalities and players, and although he is aloof and spends much time in his modest retreat at Santa Pola, near Alicante, there is little that goes on that does not reach the ears of Real's grand old man.

Mysterious

How was Kubala incorporated into Spanish football and what part did Bernabeu play in reuniting the player with his family? Who, in 1956, gave Bernabeu the tip of the whereabouts of Ferenc Puskas, the then missing exile? Who really sent the mysterious telegram (supposedly FIFA) that stopped Kubala playing in the Spain-Turkey 1954 World Cup qualifying replay? What is the truth about Spain's two notorious referee "affaires" (Rigo and Guruceta) both over Real Madrid-Barcelona matches? What started the Barcelona-Real vendetta? Who is the master-mind behind the South American falsification of players' documents? Who is the puppeteer behind Spanish football?

These are some of the fascinating questions upon which Santiago Bernabeu would undoubtedly have some honest, pungent, ironical or derisive comments to make.

But at the moment he refuses to confirm or deny the existence, or commencement, of these memoirs. In consequence the rumour strengthens. His only comment is characteristically Bernabeu-ism: "Are you going to buy my book?"

"We m

DR JOSE PEDRO DAMIANI, banker, industrialist, member of Peñarol's Presidential Directorate, blames the importation of foreign players for the disastrous financial problems that are facing Uruguay and Argentine clubs.

When I met him at the Palace Hotel —he was visiting Madrid on private business—he said: "The influx of foreign players who demand and get unreasonable salaries has created serious inflation in South American football. It has rocketed the general wage level and bonuses to such an extent that many clubs are facing ruin.

"The only solution at present is to

KOPA AND RHEIMS

PUSKAS IS UNDECIDED

ust sell" says Damiani

sell your best players . . . hence the reason why Peñarol was forced to transfer Mazurkiewicz to Atletico Mineiro de Bela Horizonte (Brazil) for £96,000, originally announced as £36,000. Another way out of the chaos is for State subsidies to enable clubs to start from scratch.

"We in Peñarol are completely renovating the side and reorganising the club — transferring all foreign players and signing only players born in Uruguay. Our present team is almost a juvenile side, most of them being in the region of 21 years. The replacements for Figuero, now with International, Porto Alegre, Mazurkiewicz and Castronova, ceeded to Rosario Central de Argentine are Sandoval, Aguerre and Villalba, all young players of international class.

"The biggest discovery we have made for 20 years is a 17-year-old named Julius Cesar Gimenez. He's truely an extraordinary player who, one day, will equal the fame and ability of Pelé. Already he draws big crowds wherever he plays."

Peñarol's present captain, Omar Caetano, is the only player left of the great 1966 side that won the South American Cup and twice beat Real Madrid in the Inter-Continental Cup final.

RHEIMS has three monuments. The celebrated Cathedral, the renowned champagne and Raymond Kopaszenski, who with the diminutive KOPA became, during the fifties, the greatest and most popular footballer France has ever known.

He retired prematurely in 1963, after one of his many clashes with the French Football Federation . . . but where is he today? He is still in Rheims . . . still in football, a member of his old club's Technical Commission and frequently playing in charity and friendly games, and still the most popular figure in the historic city.

Businessman

Nowadays, Kopa is a wealthy businessman. He owns the city's distinguished Hotel Crystal, famous for its fabulous decorations and valuable tapestries; he's chief of public relations for a sports goods manufacturers, and is shortly to be a distributor of sports clothes.

"Everyone is convinced I am a multi-millionaire. That is quite false," he says. "My family — my wife Christine and daughters Nadine (17) and Sophia (8)—live well and we have no material problems, which is comforting. Apart from the hotel we have two houses, in Angers and Corcega, and I also receive regular royalties from all the sports goods sold in France and overseas, that is, those bearing my name."

Although now comparatively rich and comfortable, Kopa has never forgotten his early days when he worked down the mines of his birthplace, Noeux les Mines (Pas de Calais). His father, who emigrated from Poland, had always been a miner . . . "so it was natural that I became one too. It was my heritage, being born in a mining family."

"But I always felt even when only six that I was born to play football, for I was forever kicking tins around and later using our garden as a stadium. At 17 I had the opportunity of joining Angers. I left the mines and as I came up for the last time I vowed, no matter what happened, I'd never go down again."

In 1952 Kopa joined First Division Rheims, whose successes soon began to depend upon the brilliant and idolised centre-forward . . . and with whom he has remained, except for his three years with Real Madrid, for nearly 20 years.

His short departure from France came after Rheims were defeated by Real Madrid in the first-ever final of the European Cup in 1956. Star of the French side was, as always, Kopa . . . and Real saw in him a genius who would help them to build the greatest-ever club side.

PANATHINAIKOS (Athens) want to renew the contract of Ferenc Puskas which does not expire until June. Pancho is in doubt . . . and has asked for time to consider before giving his answer.

He has no difference with the club, nor is he unhappy in Athens where he is treated like a modern Greek god. It's just that he has reached the frustrating point where little more can be done with his present playing staff.

This is what he said in an interview at Barajas Airport, Madrid. "Panathinaikos has reached the roof of its possibilities . . . which leaves it still well below the strength of most European teams. I say that with sadness, but a team is not made of rubber and cannot be stretched beyond its ability.

"We have the best players in Greece and some talented apprentices. They are all wonderful fellows and fine athletes . . . but they haven't the fitness and ability to adapt themselves to the rhythm of the opposition when playing beyond our frontiers . . . that Panathinaikos reached the final of the European Cup was a miracle achieved by hard work and the incredible enthusiasm of the players."

Regulations

Greek football, according to Puskas —and several English managers of Greek teams like Alan Ashman and Will McGuinness—is being strangled just as it is beginning to emerge and flourish, by constricting regulations . . . especially the one that forbids a First Division club from signing a First Division player.

"I want to strengthen my side," says Puskas, "but I am only allowed to sign a player from the Second Division, all of whom are very much inferior than those I have. So how can I build Panathinaikos into a side capable of meeting other European clubs on equal terms?

"There is a possibility that the Greek Federation will change this regulation next season. If they do it will be worth-while staying in Athens, if not. . . .?"

Honest comments certainly, but unusual and hardly encouraging to his players. Maybe he was talking only for foreign consumption . . . fishing is the word.

'Pele? No, I'm his... brother!'

Maca is shown after being signed by Miami coach Sal de Rosa, who coached the Rochester Lancers to the NASL title in 1970.

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil):

THE famous face of Pelé is bringing fame and relative fortune to a struggling Rio taxi-driver with seven children. The driver, 39-year-old Hracio Joao, has just been signed up by an advertising company, because of his close likeness to Pelé, to feature in a series of publicity films.

Senhor Joao, from a working class family in the town of Volta Redonda just north of here, first realised similarity to the soccer star during the 1966 competition in England. "I was working then as a lorry driver between Rio and Sao Paulo," he said. "Everywhere I went people kept calling at me and I didn't know why. Then the other drivers started calling me Pelé."

A few weeks later he became a taxi-driver "and from then on it never stopped," he said. "Every fare I picked up would end up by asking me: 'Are you a relative of Pelé?'"

Budget

By chance he met Joao Havelange, President of the Brazilian Soccer Federation, which led to his first meeting with the footballer. "The team was having a talk on tactics when I walked in," Senhor Joao said. "But as soon as they saw me they started calling: 'Look, Pelé, here's your brother.' He just stood staring at me and then he asked: 'Are you really my brother?' and gave me a hug."

In 1970, Senhor Jaoa, whose wife Ormelia still works as a cleaner to help out the family budget, was almost sent to Mexico with the Brazilian squad for the World Cup there because crowds giving the team a send-off at the airport mistook him for Pelé.

After Brazil had won the World Cup, beating Italy 4-1 in the final, Senhor Joao was pulled from his taxi by enthusiastic revellers on Rio's Copacabana Beach and driven around for hours in an open car to the acclaim of hundreds of people.

Over the past three years Senhor Jaoa has three times won television contests for "the man who looks most like Pelé", but it is only now that his similarity to the star looks like helping him realise his major dream.

"I have been working as a driver since I was 17, but I've never been able to buy a car for myself. The taxi I drive belongs to a company. Now with the income I shall be getting from the advertising films, I should be able to buy my own, at least."

As a sign of gratitude, he has just named his new-born baby son Edson Arantes, Pelé's real name, "to bring him luck, too," says Senhor Jaoa.

BERNE (Switzerland):

JIMMY PEARCE, sent off the field in Tottenham Hotspur's UEFA Cup match against Rapid Bucharest in December, has been banned by UEFA from Spurs' two quarter-final games against UT Arad in March. The punishment was decided upon because of "especially rough behaviour" by Pearce said the UEFA Disciplinary Committee.

UEFA also announced that Ion Pop of Rapid, who was involved in a clash with Pearce which resulted in both players being sent off, had been banned from three UEFA games.

The Italian Football Association were fined £300 because of rockets and firecrackers being set off during the Italy-Austria international in Rome in November (an Italian player was hit by one of them). The Italian FA were warned that similar incidents would result in all Italian stadiums being banned for Italy's home matches.

Hajduk Split of Yugoslavia were fined about £300 and severely warned for incidents outside their ground after their match against Valancia in September.

Vellaznia of Albania were banned from taking part in any UEFA competitions in the 1972/73 and 173/74 seasons for withdrawing from the UEFA Cup after the first round draw. The Albanian Association are forbidden to substitute any other team.

PSV Eindhoven of Holland have lost the services of their Yugoslavian-born player Lazar Radovic from all UEFA-sponsored matches until December 1976, for "acting against" the referee and a linesman after the match against Lierse SK of Belgium on December 8.

V. Korzeniovski of Legia Warsaw has been banned from the next game in any UEFA competition because of "unsporting behaviour" in the match against Rapid Bucharest on October 19.

ISTANBUL (Turkey):

Brian Birch, coach of Turkish club Galatasary, is looking for a new post. Brian took his club to the Turkish championship last year and looks like adding another title to their collection this term. Brian's present contract with Galatasary finishes in June.

BRIAN BIRCH coach of Galatasary reports from TURKEY

BESIKTAS AHEAD AT HALF-WAY

IN my article last month, I mentioned that with three matches to play before the mid-season break it would be a tight finish. It was. The final placings being Galatasary first, Besiktas second and Eskihisir Spor third. Well I did warn you, didn't I?

My faith in Galatasary was not without foundation, for the team had been playing really well for a few weeks before this nail-biting finish but had not been accepting the many chances they had been creating. In the "run-in" everything clicked and goals began to flow.

Everything revolved around the final games between Besiktas playing Mersin at home and Galatasary playing up in the mountains at Bolu. The odds favoured Besiktas naturally. But Mersin thought otherwise and played "Catanaccio" which frustrated Besiktas to such an extent that they became completely disorganised. They failed to break this defensive barrier and had to settle for one point.

Conditions

Galatasary played their match in shocking conditions that, if anything, favoured the home side. The usual Galatasary ploy of "when in doubt, attack" worked well. They never let Bolu settle and hustled them at every opportunity.

At half-time they had scored one goal through their captain, Uger, and had never looked in trouble. In the second half Metin went it alone and scored a great goal. From this moment all opposition ceased to exist and two points were safely tucked away.

Salvage

This put Galatasary at the top on goal average but with the same number of points as Besiktas. So with both these sides on 20 points, and 40 points considered to be good enough to win the title, it should be an interesting second period.

What about Fenerbache? Well, they had been struggling to find something like their form and had not been too good at it. In the last three games they managed to salvage some of their pride. They now sit on 17 points three points behind the leaders, and at this stage that's not so good.

In their last game they managed to take both points when playing Bursa in Istanbul. But this result was not a surprise as Bursa have been having a disasterous season. They must pick up some extra points from somewhere in the second half of the season if they are to become a threat to the leaders but, with their incredibly faithful supporters to cheer them on (at least 25,000), nothing is impossible for them.

Eskihisir Spor, the big threat to Istanbul superiority, are still lurking dangerously close and can never be treated lightly. They have some of the most fanatical followers in Turkey, taking anything between five and six thousand to all away games. And when you consider the distances involved in a country this size, this is amazing.

Relegated

How long this superiority of Istanbul will last is difficult to say, but slowly—but ever so surely—the smaller towns are beginning to emerge. This is good for Turkish football as the game will be spread over a greater area.

But for many followers of Istanbul teams (five teams are presently representing Istanbul in the First Division) it is not to be treated lightly. Last year Ankara lost two teams from Division One when both PTT, the post office team, and Demi Spor, were relegated, leaving only one team, Ankara Gucun, to represent the capital city.

Istanbul can see the same thing happening to them, and do not like it. At the moment two Istanbul teams are in danger of leaving the elite division—Istanbul Spor, a very old club with strong traditions, and Veffa, also with strong and historic traditions.

But this is 1972 and nobody is interested in what you did—only in what you can do now. It's a cruel world yes, but that's "The name of the game" these days.

Powerful

Coskun Ozari, recently-appointed national coach, made his first move this week when he selected his 32-man squad for Turkey's assault on the World Cup. Obviously many of these players are taken from the more powerful clubs but he certainly created a stir when he announced that he would be needing eight of the present Galatasary side.

Good for us, and the players concerned, but many people will not look too kindly on this move. Besiktas have three players in this squad, while Fenerbache have both mid-field players, Fatt and Zia named.

Jealousies run high here, and many people will be thinking he has named eight Galatasary players for purely financial reasons. A player's value will naturally be inflated if he is an international and many clubs feel that fees are already far too high.

Should Galatasary have four of its eight players finally selected it would be more money in the bank. A bank that is already considered to be bursting with much of the money in Turkish football.

Soccer-style kickers

FORMER Cypriot soccer player Garo Yepremian ended the longest game in United States professional football history on Christmas Day when he kicked a 37-yard field goal in the second overtime period, to give the Miami Dolphins a 27-24 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in the semi-final of the American Football Conference of the National Football League.

Earlier, just minutes from the end of regulation time, another former soccer player, Jan Stenerud, had missed a field goal from close range which would have given the Kansas City Chiefs victory. The Chiefs are owned by Lamar Hunt, who also owns the Dallas Tornado of the North American Soccer League.

Soccer-style field goal-kickers (a field goal is similar to a penalty goal in Rugby) are very much in vogue in American and Canadian style football these days, being able to kick longer distances with greater accuracy than the old straight-on style kickers.

ROSARIO CENT
WIN NATIONAL

ARGENTINA

ROSARIO CENTRAL, runners-up last year, won the national championship by beating San Lorenzo 2-1 in a poor final game. In the semi-final of the top-four play-off, the Rosario team beat Newell's Old Boys (from the same town), while San Lorenzo beat Independiente. Rosario Central are the first club from outside Buenos Aires to win the national title. They are a regular First Division team, however, and no team from outside the First Division has so far won this title.

With virtually the same line-up and the same faults as the previous season, Rosario were lifted above their rivals in the final—as in many other matches—by one player, Poy, a versatile forward who plays football how it should be played, links mid-field with attack and generally creates most of the goal chances. Rosario were generally weak in defence, slow in mid-field and lacked punch in attack, yet they have a tremendous fighting spirit and this, plus Poy, has given them the title in a mediocre season.

Rosario Central started off the season with a poor campaign in the South American Club Championship, the "Libertadores" Cup, for which they had qualified as 1970 runners-up. In the Metropolitan First Division they finished half-way down the table. Then Angel Labruna, ex-River Plate International and later their coach, took over as coach at Rosario. He maintained the team's attacking style, but imposed closer marking and, to some measure, destructive tactics and more movement by improving the players' fitness. They sacrificed a bit of style for more fighting spirit and the transformation worked wonders.

Independiente, Metropolitan First Division champions, are the other team which will represent Argentina in the "Libertadores" Cup.

BRAZIL

ATLETICO MINEIRO, an unfashionable club from Minas Gerais, won the Brazilian national title after beating Rio club Botafogo by 1-0 in a furious last game. Two Botafogo players, Mura and Carlos Roberto, were sent off 10 minutes from the end and after the final whistle the furious Botafogo coach, Nilton Stantos, rushed on the field to attack the referee. Armando Marques. Dario, a member of Brazil's last World Cup squad, scored the only goal 17 minutes after half-time. San Paulo FC were the runners-up and will be Brazil's other "Libertadores" Cup representatives.

Dario is Atletico's only international and he, together with half Vantuir, are the only two members of the current national squad, but the club, in an effort to strengthen the team for the South American League championship, has just bought Uruguay's long-serving international goalkeeper, Mazurkiewicz, from Peñarol, considered by many to be the continent's leading goalkeeper.

In a nation-wide poll by reporters after the national championship, Pelé was left out of the "ideal 11" for the first time in 12 years. Rivelino was the player to receive most votes (55 out of 65) to become Brazil's "Player of the Year" and the 11 were:

Sergio (San Paulo), Humberto (Atletico Mineiro), Perfumo (Cruzeiro), Vantuir (Atletico Mineiro), Oldair (Atletico Mineiro), Gerson (San Paulo), Dirceu Lopez (Cruzeiro), Rivelino (Corinthians), Jairzinho (Botafogo), Dario (Atletico Mineiro), Edu (Santos).

Atletico Mineiro players fared better with the pollsters than with the selectors.

Brazil . . . back row left to right: Chirol (trainer), Eurico, Felix, Brito, Piazza, Clodoaldo, Everaldo. Front: Vaguinho, Gerson, Paulo Cesar, Tostao, Rivelino.

URUGUAY

NACIONAL retained the Uruguayan First Division title by a point over their eternal rivals, Peñarol, and both will, as usual, represent Uruguay in the South American Club Championship. The revelation of the season, however, were Liverpool, a small club which stayed at the top of the table for half the season and maintained their challenge for longer than any other clubs, outside the "big two", had done for a long time. Finally they finished six points behind the leaders.

Nacional's centre-forward, Argentinian Luis Artime, again finished as league top scorer with 16 goals. Half, Montero Castillo, was the champions' mainstay, together with defender

TRAL TITLE

Ancheta, half Prieto (now both transferred) and Maneiro and forwards Artime and Cubillas. The team, and the style, was much the same as the previous season, but changes are in progress. Nacional's financial situation is forcing them to sell abroad. Then they will no doubt buy cheaper from Argentina, and the Uruguayan smaller clubs who are also forced to sell to carry on.

Final placings:

1 Nacional 40 points, 2 Peñarol 39, 3 Liverpool 34, 4 Bella Vista 29, 5 Danubio 28, 6 Huracan Buceo 22. **Relegation Group:** 7 River Plate 26, 8 Cerro 24, 9 Defensor 23, 10 Central Español 21, 11 Sudamerica 20, 12 Racing 14. (Relegation play-off in progress at press-time.)

COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA'S professional league championship had yet to be decided at press-time as the four-team play-off between the two top teams of each of the season's two league championships ended in a tie between Santa Fe (Bogotá) and Nacional (Medellin) with seven points each, followed by Millionarios (Bogotá) six and Deportivo Cali four.

Both teams lost on the last day when a decision was expected, but at any rate, both have qualified for the South American Club Championship.

PERU

UNIVERSITARIO DE DEPORTES, of Lima, made sure of the First Division title with two games to go and ended the championship with a six-point lead over Alianza de Lima after being well ahead for most of the season.

The only fight was for the runners-up spot and a place in the South American Cup. This was decided on the last day.

Final placings:

1 Universitario de Deportes 46 pts., 2 Alianza Lima 40, 3 Defensor Lima 39, 4 Sporting Cristal 38, 5 Deportivo Municipal 37, 6 Juan Aurich de Chiclana 36, 7 Mariano Melgar 34, 8 Atletico Torino 30, 9 Sport Boys 29, 10 Union Tuman 26, 11 Defensor Arica, Carlos Manucci 24, 13 J. Galvez, Deportivo Olimpico 20, 15 Octavio Espinoza 19, 16 Miraflores 18.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

PARAGUAY

FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS, Olimpia, beat second-placed Cerro Porteño 2-0 on the last day to rub in their superiority, but they had already made sure of the title three weeks before. Both clubs will represent Paraguay in the South American Championship.

VENEZUELA

THERE'S a struggle for power in Venezuela between the Venezuelan Federation and the Professional League. Both want to become the ruling body of soccer in the country. This situation could lead to a serious rift, but at the moment the trouble is over Venezuela's representatives in the South American Cup.

League champions, Valencia, have lined up on the league's side, while vice-champions, Deportivo Italia are supporting the Federation. The Federation therefore refuses to enter Valencia, while the League will not agree to the entry of Deportivo Italia. Venezuela may stay out altogether which would leave Uruguay's Nacional and Peñarol without rivals in the first round group.

Atlanta future in doubt

A UNITED PRESS International report out of Atlanta on January 6 quotes William C. Bartholomay, President of the Atlanta Braves Baseball Club, owners of the Atlanta Chiefs of the North American Soccer League, as saying in a letter to stockholders: "Continuation of soccer in Atlanta remains in doubt because of poor attendance."

The statement was contained in a report to the stockholders of the baseball club which revealed that the Atlanta Chiefs Soccer Club have lost just over one million dollars in their five years of operations and it lists a loss of $100,000 by the Chiefs on their operations in 1971.

Reliable sources close to the NASL stated recently that the Chiefs have been pushing for a suspension of league play in 1972 but that the other seven clubs were against it. Now unconfirmed reports have it that the Chiefs have the backing of the New York Cosmos.

It would certainly seem that Atlanta want to get out of soccer but that they are concerned as to the bad impression this would create for the baseball club, should the NASL fold up as a result of their withdrawal.

In previous years the NASL was beset by problems right from the end of the season, but last year this was not the case and it appeared that they had finally established some sort of firm base. Now once again, as the new season draws nearer, cracks are beginning to appear in the facade, for in addition to the question-mark over Atlanta, Montreal seem none to sure of themselves either.

Recently the new Miami club proposed that all the NASL clubs be allowed to sign no more than six foreign-born players, thus ensuring that at least five American players would be on the field at all times.

On behalf of the Miami club, general manager Norman Sutherland stated: "My reason for this proposal is that, after five years, the NASL has never gained true acceptance by the media or public as an American sport. If we are to succeed, we must identify with the nation and its public. The past has not been a success, and it is doubtful that any club can expect a substantial increase in attendance unless a drastic move is made immediately."

FRANCIS L
SO EXCITIN

FRANCIS LEE, the most exciting player to emerge from English football since they won the 1966 World Cup, is something of a late developer. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that here is a player who is continually developing and at 26 is still not the finished product. Though this may be closer to the truth it remains a fact that his talents are not obvious to the ordinary eye, giving an illusion of late development and also going some way to explaining why in the poll to select Europe's outstanding Footballer of 1971, 25 of 26 hand-picked journalists failed to give him one of their five votes. The 26th man was from Poland who gave Lee fourth place amongst his five nominations and with 'Frannie' threatening to steal the *Golden Boot* awarded to the highest league goalscorer in Europe, the other 25 may well find soon that they have good reason to blush.

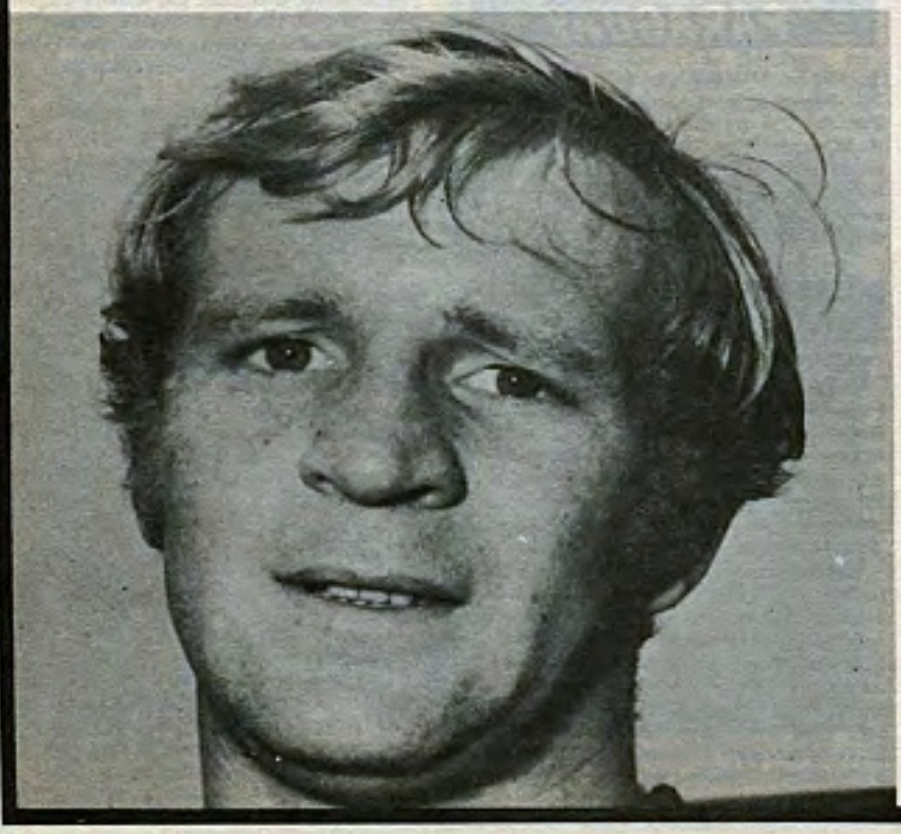
Bolton Wanderers, who found and engaged Lee, also failed to recognise his potential. Why else would they have allowed him to be transferred to Manchester City for a mere £60,000 in October, 1967? Had they realised what a player Lee was to become they would surely have retained him and either not be a Third Division club as they are now, or been able to transfer him later at perhaps four times that fee.

Born in Bolton, Lee joined the Wanderers straight from school and progressed through the junior sides. At fifteen he was in the League team and clearly he was thought to have potential. But someone at Maine Road, Manchester, had a sharper eye or keener nose for the talent that Lee could develop and Bolton's loss became City's gain.

Quick, stockily built and explosive, Lee generates a dynamism reminiscent of West Germany's Uwe Seeler in his younger days—and courage to match. It is these qualities together with a high degree of technical skill; a willingness, even eagerness, to accept responsibility and a powerful right foot which have brought him to the forefront of the English game and earned him many of his goals.

In less than five years with Manchester City, Lee has earned almost every honour open to him. He joined them in October 1967 and the following spring claimed a First Division championship medal. He played a major part in City's successes, added an F.A. Cup Winners medal a year later—City beat Leicester City 1—0 in the final—and in 1970 they added an unusual double to their battle honours. This was the year that City won two Cups, beating West Bromwich Albion 2—1 in the Football League Cup Final at Wembley and a few weeks later beating Cornik Zabrze by the same score in the European Cup Winners Cup Final in Vienna.

Though all these triumphs were the result of a team effort, Lee's personal contribution was quite considerable and very often, making or taking goals himself at critical moments. In the Football League Cup Final, Lee created the opening for what proved to be the winning goal with an excellent run down the right wing followed by a fine cross that laid on the chance for Pardoe to score. At the Prater Stadion in Vienna, a tremendous shot from Lee was blocked but not held by Cornik 'keeper Kostka and the ball ran loose for Neil Young to score from six yards and later Lee himself hit the winner from the penalty spot.



Rebound

This has been the pattern of Lee's play throughout his career with Manchester City, scoring goals himself or hitting shots of such violence and power that they rebound from the framework; bounce conveniently off defenders that intervene or re-bound from goalkeepers who reach his shots but are unable to retain the ball. In this way, as a direct result of Lee's shooting ability, his colleagues snap up chances that literally drop at their feet.

But the power and accuracy of Lee's shooting is only one of his greatest attributes. He lays on goal chances for team-mates in a variety of ways. Far from being a simple cannon, Lee has a skill that is demonstrated in his first-time distribution; his delicate

S IS TING

Player Portrait

by

ERIC BATTY

flicks for a supporting colleague running through a defence looking for a return pass, and, by dribbling past defenders at speed and then realising that he is at too fine an angle to shoot himself, pulling the ball back for a well-placed colleague to shoot at the full face of the goal.

In similar situations, lesser players attempt to blast the ball through the space between the opposing goalkeeper and the near post, invariably allowing the goalkeeper to make a simple but effective save or hitting the side-netting with their shots off target.

Lee's intelligence, perception and simple unselfishness combine with his natural talents to make him one of the most dangerous strikers in the game today though perhaps only those who play alongside him fully realise his true value.

Breakthrough

In the Internatinoal arena, Lee is one of the few members of the current England team not to have earned a cap at Under 23 level, but since he made the breakthrough into the full team he has been almost ever present. Lee made his bow for England in the autumn of 1968 against Bulgaria at Wembley but though he did enough to make his mark, this was to be remembered as 'Simeonov's day'. The Bulgarian goalkeeper hit the peak of his career in this match, defying with the aid of a goalpost on one occasion all but one of England's many goal-scoring attempts. The late Georgi Asparoukhov 'ghosted' a goal for Bulgaria and Simeonov earned a 1—1 draw.

Missing the next match—another 1—1 draw, this time against Rumania—Lee returned to the England side against France and scoring a goal in a 5—0 victory has been an automatic choice ever since. As with City, his contribution in England's attack which is usually limited to two front-runners in a 4-4-2 formation is double edged. He scores goals himself, some of them vitally important, but just as frequently he has a big hand in goals scored by colleagues.

One of Lee's most important goals for England came in the British home international championship in 1970 when in a match against Wales, England were trailing 0—1. Lee made a run down the left with the ball at his feet, feinted to the left and pulling the ball back on to his best foot, let fly with a tremendous drive to earn England a 1—1 draw.

Astute

Twenty six years old and with 26 England caps it is a scorer that Lee is now primarily making his name though the more astute will be aware of all all-round capabilities. Last season, 1970-71, Lee contributed only 14 league goals in 38 matches, while at the moment he is leading the race for the European *Golden Boot*. In his days with Bolton Wanderers, Lee hit 22 goals in the 1966-67 season . . . six of them from penalty kicks . . . but now only injury seems capable of preventing him from bettering both these figures.

Lee gets his goals in a variety of ways, making it all the more difficult to prevent him from scoring. He is particularly deadly from the penalty spot though from observation his technique in this respect is nothing new. Having seen him score from the spot with a shot that went in off the underside of the bar like a bullet; another that was perfectly placed but powerfully hit into the top right hand corner of the goal, and another that would have hit the goalkeeper a nasty blow in the stomach had he not tried to anticipate the shot and moved to his left, it seems clear that on the spot, Lee simply hits the ball hard—with everything he's got.

Lee earns many of Manchester City's penalty kicks himself as well as taking them. In possession of the ball anywhere within thirty yards of goal, Lee is one of the few players who can make his own goals, taking defenders on; feinting and bobbing, dribbling past one opponent after another until he reaches a shooting position.

Keeping the ball under close control with the inside and the outside of his right foot; Lee is small but not light, changes direction quickly and often, and has a remarkable rate of acceleration. Roaring into the penalty area he send many challengers the wrong way with body feints; beats others by moving left before suddenly sprinting away right, evades many a tackle with a sudden change of pace and very often a late challenger brings him down to give away a penalty.

Developed

Lee is very well served by his colleagues, Colin Bell, both for England and Manchester City. Having played together for quite a long time it is not surprising that they have developed a fine sense of understanding. But it is still surprising how often they appear to think in unison, one moving for a pass at just the right time into exactly the right place—the other knowing precisely where and when the other wants to find the ball!

• continued on page 25

Better days for Espanol

Jose Santamaria, formerly centre-half of Real Madrid, now manager of Espanol.

TWO YEARS AGO Español de Barcelona was on the point of extinction. They owed £1,140,000 through irresponsible handling . . . fell into deeper debt through spending fortunes in a fruitless effort to avoid relegation to the Second Division, and were eventually placed in the hands of a Financial Commission (Receivers).

There seemed no future for the club until D. José Ma. Villegas and D. Carlos Carenza, members of the Commission, came up with a shrewd solution: Español's Estadio Sarria—situated in the centre of a residential area—was classified by an old law as a green zone. The Commission persuaded the Barcelona City Council to revise the ancient statute and declare the ground a building zone.

Elevated

This elevated the value of the stadium to £4,200,000 on which the Commission was able to negotiate a mortgage to cover every outstanding debt. Another ground will eventually be necessary, but the sale of Sarria as building land will pay off the mortgage and cover a great deal of the new stadium costs.

After the Commission had sorted out the incredible financial confusion, D. Manuel Meler, a Barcelona businessman with an international reputation, was invited to become President. Today—after only two years—the club is back on its feet and moving firmly towards fame and stability.

President Meler continued the Financial Commission's general policy, but replaced the famous South American manager, Riera, with the controversial Czechoslovak Fernando Daucik. Miraculously Español returned to the First Division in one season.

Last summer the President made another master move when he persuaded José Santamaria, the former Real Madrid centre-half, to leave his Federation appointment as "Supremo" of Spain's juveniles, amateurs and Under-23 Elevens and join Español as team manager.

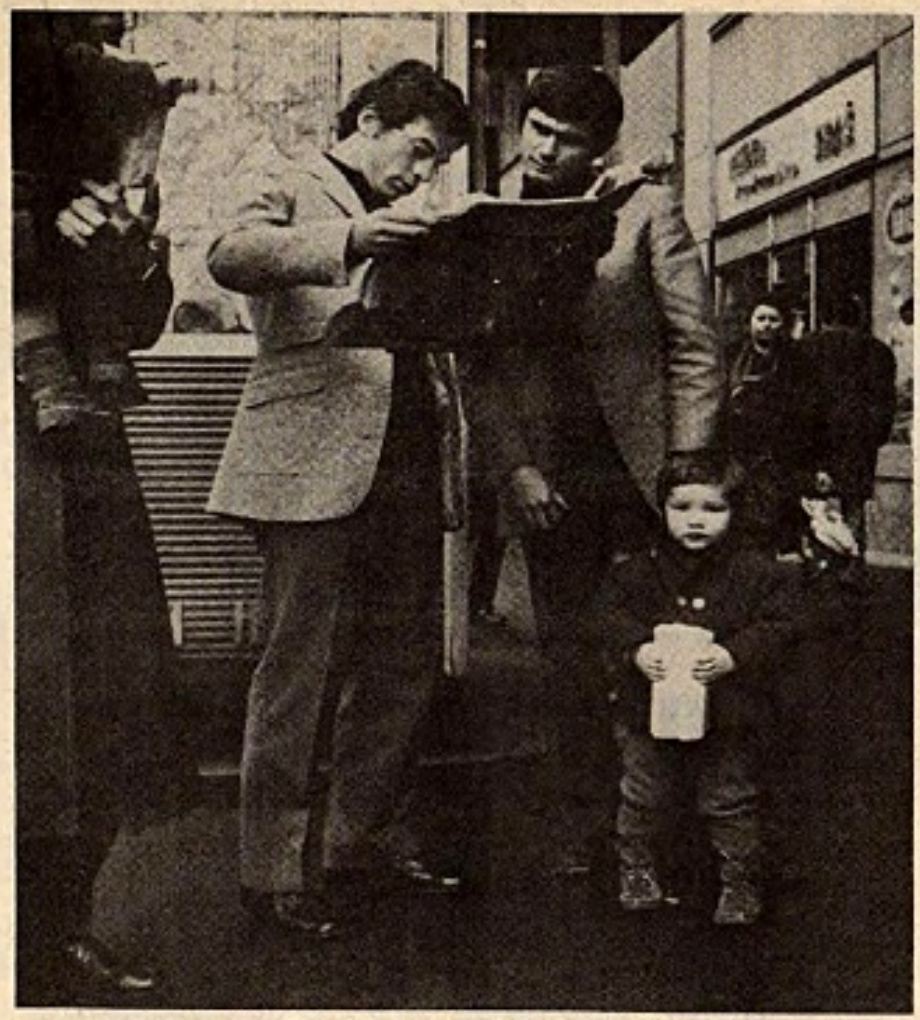
Big signings were still out of the question. But Santamaria, by introducing Real Madrid organisation and methods, and strengthening his modest playing staff by shrewd exchange deals, has produced the surprise team of the year . . . one that has captured the public's imagination by their impressive and entertaining football.

Another thing President Meler has stopped—Barcelona using Español as the dumping ground of their ageing players, a habit that has existed for many years.

The enterprise, and courage, of Meler and Santamaria is now being held as an example for other dormant Spanish clubs. Last summer Español ventured behind the Iron Curtain and played three matches in Russia . . . the first Spanish club ever to visit the USSR. Each game was watched by 100,000 fans; they lost only one match and came back richly rewarded. Español has since been invited to return.

This summer—President Meler has just returned from a contact tour—Español are planning to visit Thailand, Hong Kong, Malasia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. At the moment there are problems. The Far East rains begin punctually during the first week in July . . . and Español might not be able to arrive before mid-June because of the Spanish Cup commitments.

My guess is that Español will be in "rickshaw-land" before the beginning of the 1972-73 season opens. They could be knocked out of the Cup in the first round!



Ilija Petkovic and Slobodan Santrac of Yugoslavia and OFK Belgrade.

Yugoslavia none too confident

by T. Mihajlovic

YUGOSLAVIA are none too confident about their chances of reaching the last four of the European Championship. The draw, made in Zurich, which paired them with the Soviet Union, was unfavourable. Although Russia are not considered the best team in Europe, the Yugoslavs have a poor record against their East European neighbours.

The last time Yugoslavia beat Russia was ten years ago, in an Olympic Games match. But Vujadin Boskov, Yugoslavia's team boss, is not panicking and is looking forward to the first game, on April 30, with moderate optimism.

Says Mr. Boskov: "The European Championship provides a wonderful opportunity for our players. The match against Russia will be played in Belgrade, where we can expect a crowd of 60,000. We shall play to win and in matches of this character we often rise to the very peak of our potential.

National

"The spring part of the current Yugoslavian championship is only just commencing, after a 77-day break. I will name my list of players after hearing reports of games being played in Mostar and Titograd. Three of my trainers will go to see the teams which have candidates for the national squad. We will have at least two training matches before April 30.

"We see our destiny in the first match. We must score at least two goals more than the Russians if we are to secure a place in the semi-finals. If all my players play at their best I would not be surprised to see us get through."

Ironically, the Russians are coming to Yugoslavia for training during the winter. These plans were made before the draw and have not been altered. They are going to the island of Hvar and will play matches against club sides from Yugoslavia.

These games will at least enable the Yugoslavs to have a close look at their opponents. Not that the Russians' style is not already well known but Vujadin Boskov will want his players to have respect for their rivals.

The Russians claim that they will easily reach the semi-finals. We in Yugoslavia do not agree. The second leg will be in Moscow on May 14.

If Yugoslavia can overcome Russia, they should reach the final. There is little fear of either Rumania or Hungary.

LEE IS SO EXCITING

continued from page 23

Lee's left foot is not exactly a 'swinger', indeed he scores quite a few goals with it, shooting while moving into the penalty area with the ball under control from right to left. But his left foot goals are invariably scored from close in, *pushed* with the inside of the foot rather than driven. But with his right foot, Lee can be lethal anywhere within 25 yards of goal—shooting first time, hitting the ball while on the run at top speed or flighting a ball that *dips late* behind a 'keeper who is off his line.

Perhaps his most devastating weapon is the ability to make the ball swerve 'in' when hit hard with the inside of his right foot, and it is used quite often in goal attempts from any angle. But in particular this knack is very useful when Lee is off on a run from midfield and moving from right to left. When forced out wide on the left, he can suddenly check, stopping dead. While his opponent attempts to readjust his balance Lee has flicked the ball up and over the defenders left foot and brought the ball back onto his own favourite peg and from there he blasts a terrific shot, aimed at the far post but swinging in there late in flight.

Joe Mercer and Malcolm Allison know better than anyone just how versatile Lee is and for this reason they often play him a little deeper in midfield when Bell is unable to play. There, Lee demonstrates his basic understanding, his ability to lay a pass, and from there too he can make frequent breaks forward in search of his goals. But his assets are best used, not in a half and half role but up front. All Lee needs is the ball at his feet and the further forward he is when he gains possession; the fewer opponents there are between him and a shooting position, the greater will be the chance of him scoring.

Combined squad for Russia

FORMER Olympics soccer team chief Alexander Ponomarev, now in charge of the Russian national team, has announced his first decisions. From now on the two squads will combine to form one team that will compete in the European Championship quarter finals and the Olympic Games. He has a new chief assistant too—his aide with the former Olympics team, Nikolai Guljajev.

Together they have already taken their chosen players for fifteen days preparation on the island of Hvar, off Yugoslavia's Adriatic coast. From there they will visit Holland and Belgium to play against club sides before the international programme begins in March with a match against Bulgaria in Sofia.

With the quarter final against Yugoslavia at the end of April, there will be four more run-outs for the national team earlier in the month—against Finland, Sweden, Poland and Peru. Quite aside from Ponomarev's considerable reputation, Russia have the Indian sign on the Yugoslavs and must be favourites.

Champions

In previous encounters the Russians have won 6 drawn 3 and lost 2, and the new boss has already made it plain that he will rely largely on the current champions Dynamo Kiev, fielding a Kiev team reinforced by outstanding individuals.

While Ponomarev was considering the players for his new 'double' hunting squad, the influential paper Sovietski Sport polled the 18 Division I club managers to name a national team. Altogether 39 players were nominated with only two men, goalkeeper Rudakov and midfield star Kolotov proving to be unanimous choices.

Panathinaikos manager Ferenc Puskas with club captain Domazos.

PANATHINAIKOS RETURN AND SNATCH LEAD

AFTER their unsuccessful bid to gain the unofficial World club championship Panathinaikos returned from South America to play four league matches in eleven days. Anxious to make a quick return to the lucrative European Cup they faced a strong challenge from neighbouring AEK and Olympiakos as wel las the two Saloniks teams, Aris and PAOK.

Puskas and his Panathinaikos squad proved their durability by taking maximum points from four straight wins, two at home and two away, without conceding a goal. Then, with free-scoring centre forward Antoniadis heading two goals against Patras without reply, Panathinaikos reached the half way mark in the league programme two points clear of the field.

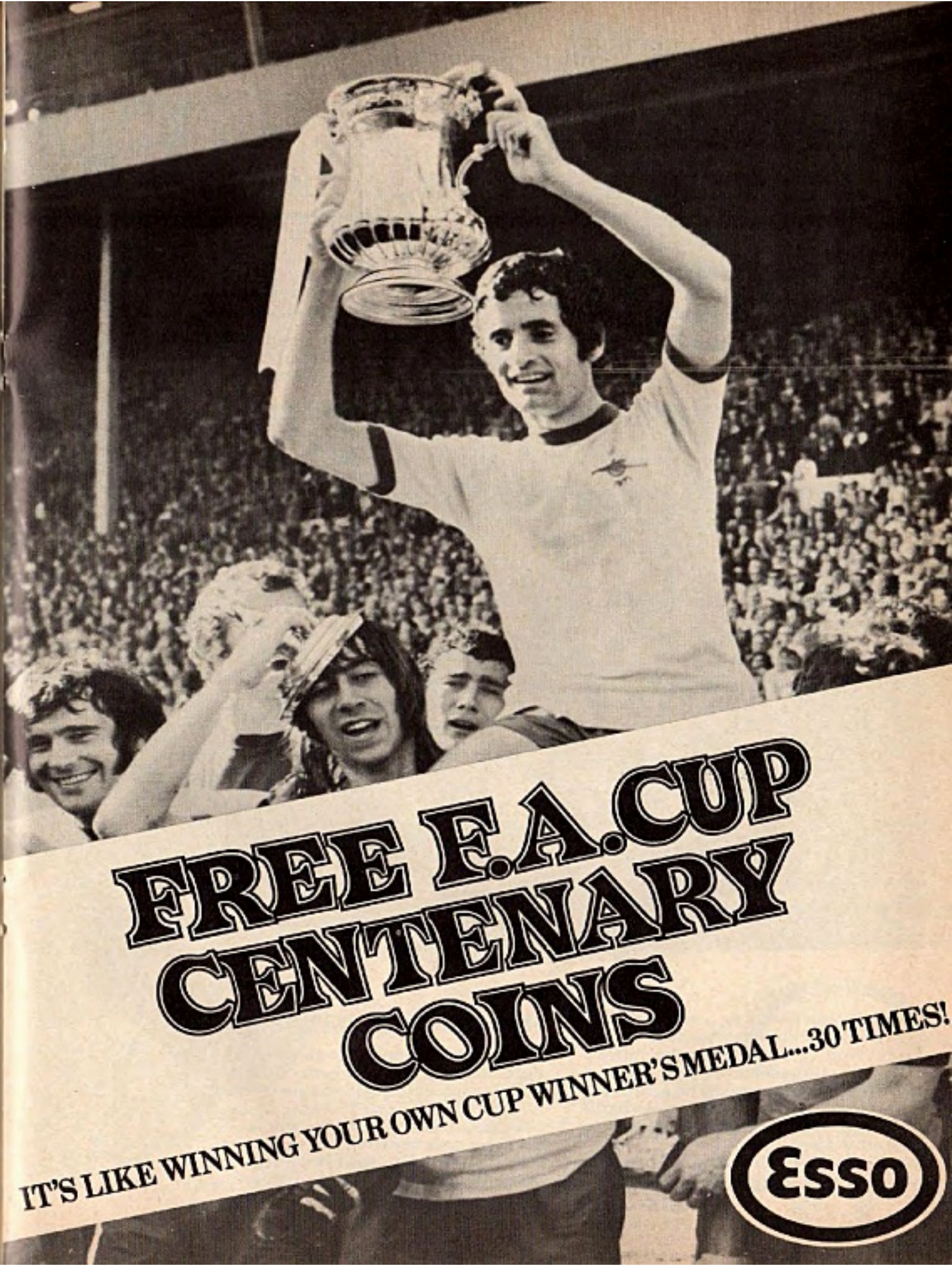
Precious

Last time out, Panathinaikos struggled against lowly Fostir who can be formidable on their own ground. Two-one down, the Puskas club snatched an equaliser and two precious points with a goal from Papadimitriou two minutes from time. Meanwhile Aris, Olympiakos and AEK had all been beaten the previous week to give Panathinaikos a three point breathing space at the top. With 53 goals to their credit in 19 games, they are there on merit for the next highest scorers are Olympiakos with 30.

Capacity

Georges Sideris, former international inside forward and Europe's top league goalscorer in 1969, returned to the Olympiakos team for the visit of Patras and, before a capacity crowd of 35,000 scored his customary goal. During the last two years Sideris has been in Belgium with RFC Antwerp and, now 33, he has lost a little pace but none of his flair.

On his 'debut' he struck an immediate understanding with former OGC Nice centre forward Romain Arghirudis and the clubs' leading scorer Yves Triantafilos. The last named has nine goals, compared with 10 for Alexiadis the Aris star and the 23 of Antoniadis who is one of the big challengers for the golden boot won by Sideris in 1969.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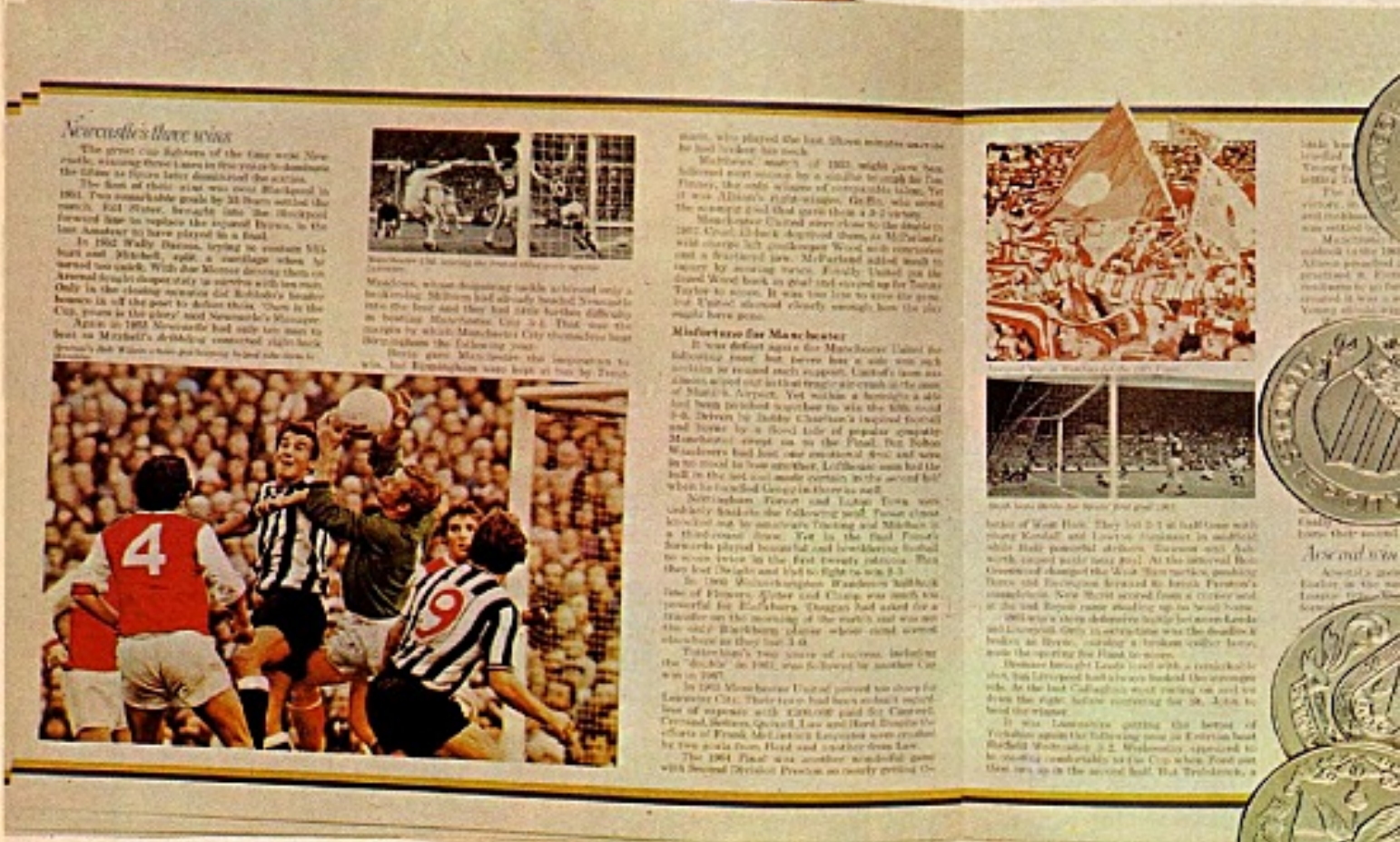

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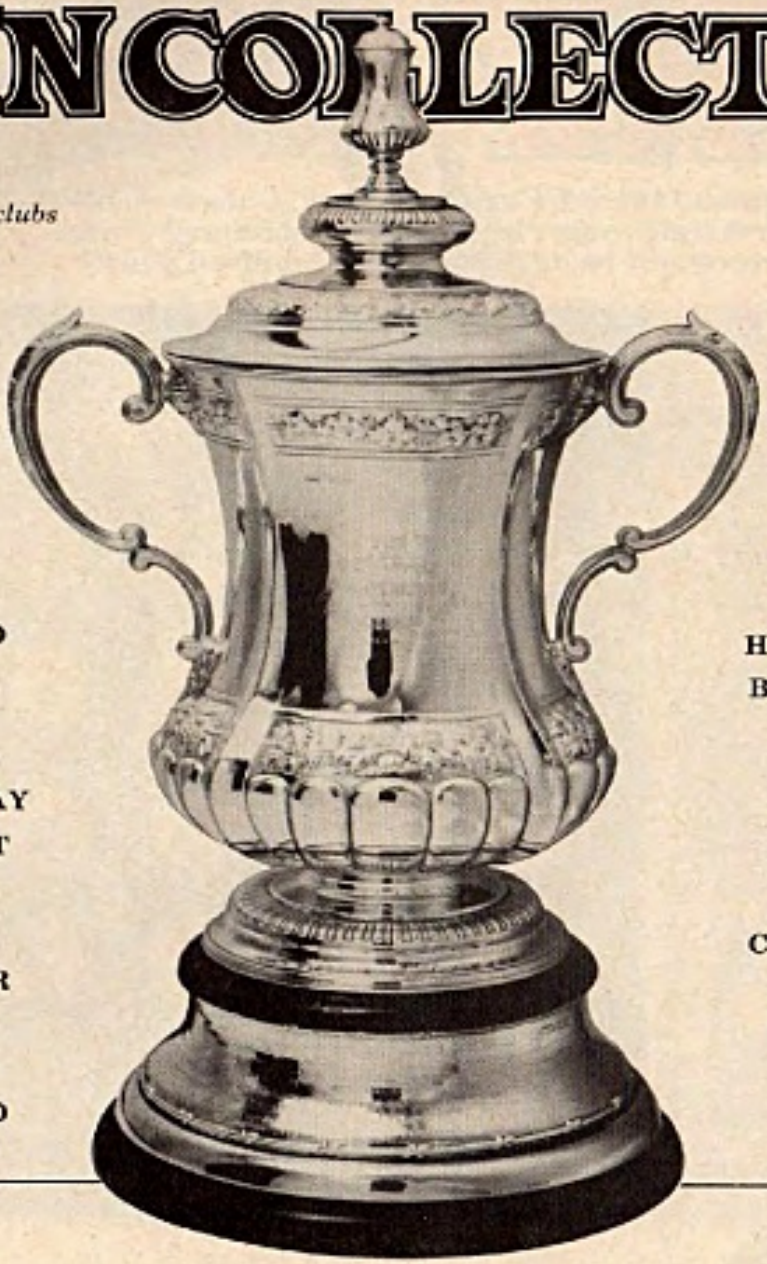

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IRISH SIMPLY BEING IRISH!

by COLIN McALPIN

YOU'VE got to hand it to the Irish: when it comes to staging a major competition nothing is ever as simple as it seems. Take the case of this season's Irish Cup which will go down in the record books as one of the most controversial in years. Right from the qualifying rounds incident has followed incident with the result that the entire proceedings were played out with an element of farce.

In the qualifying rounds the game between B Division clubs Queen's University and Carrick Rangers ended with Rangers being disqualified because they turned up at the venue on time but their kit didn't . . . it was delayed at an army check-point during a bout of civil unrest.

I suppose if Rangers were able to make it their kit should have too, I suppose it was bad planning on the part of the officials of the seaport club . . . but in the special circumstances I do feel the I.F.A. would have been better advised to overlook the mix-up and allow the game to be re-arranged.

Though if you think that incident odd consider what happened when they made the draw for the first round proper: the draw brought Distillery out of the hat for a home game against Coleraine, Derry City for a home game against B Division club Ballyclare Comrades and Crusaders for a home game against Ballymena United.

What's so strange about that, you may ask. Well all four senior clubs happened to be sharing grounds. Distillery, who lost theirs in the troubles, share Seaview with Crusaders and Derry, who also lost theirs for the same reason, share the Showgrounds with Coleraine. Obviously Crusaders had first claim to Seaview which put the Whites in a pickle.

True to form

There was, of course, an easy way out. But the I.F.A., true to form, didn't want to know it. Distillery asked for their game to be staged at Solitude, available because Cliftonville were away to Portadown, on the grounds that as Coleraine had an away draw it mattered little to them where it was played and a neutral venue would be the ideal solution.

It would also help Derry City stage their home game at home and thus only one tie would be affected. But the I.F.A., who obviously didn't give the matter any thought whatsoever, or didn't care that they were about to mess up two games, decided that the Whites must travel to Coleraine and Derry to Ballyclare.

So two teams who got home ties had to play away and one which was given an away tie had the advantage of an unexpected home game. And on top of all this shambles the two non-league clubs, Queen's and Chimney Corner, both had to move to Castlereagh Park as neither of their grounds was up to the required standard (though, for some reason best known to the I.F.A., Queen's ground HAD been up to standard for the ill-fated qualifying round).

Surely somebody ought to have seen the possibility of such a mess. It was odds on that one of the four clubs would be involved in a home game they couldn't stage. With a little planning and consideration the farce would not have happened. If this is the way the I.F.A. are to conduct their business then there seems little hope for the future.

But don't go away; there's more to come! Distillery found themselves in another sensation when they eventually did play the tie. Their 20-year-old amateur international goalkeeper Roy McDonald walked out at half-time because he felt his team-mates had blamed him unfairly for the two goals the Bannsiders had scored in the first 45 minutes.

He stormed out of the interval pep-talk, got into his car and drove home. Leaving his side to face the Bannsiders with a substitute 'keeper, 18-year-old inside-forward Martin Malone. And Coleraine went on to win 7-1 with sharpshooter Des Dickson collecting a devastating four to take him to the top of the scoring chart with 34.

Manager Jimmy McAlinden explained about the walk-out: "We had a discussion about the first-half and McDonald took exception to what was said. He said he wasn't going to play in the second-half and I didn't try to make him change his mind.

"I thought it was a childish decision and I'm very disappointed."

Distillery president Clancy McDermott, a man with 27 years soccer experience behind him, added: "I've never heard of anything so ridiculous in all my years in the game. McDonald's action completely demoralised his team-mates."

The trouble with Roy, a player I know and respect and one I am convinced has a great future in the game still, is that he is unable or unwilling to accept advice from his team-mates. On his day he is the finest 'keeper in the game but refuses to accept that he has still much to learn, and can learn it if he takes the advice of his fellow players with good grace. In a way, and it is his greatest drawback, Roy feels he knows it all. And even George Best can't claim that!

For the hapless Distillery the Cup-cum-McDonald troubles were a small part of what can best be described as an unhappy time. Prior to the game against Bertie Peacock's boys their centre-half Peter Rafferty, reckoned the best in the game, staged a walk-out and was followed by winger Mervyn Law. Rafferty subsequently came back but the situation remains grim for the club.

It becomes increasingly difficult for Distillery to retain the interest of players and supporters when they have no home of their own and no immediate prospect of one. I wrote some time ago of their plans for a permanent move to Newtownabbey, just outside Belfast, but it remains a long-term plan and in the meantime they fight for survival with the pundits running a book on the likelihood of failure.

Yet their plight, as I said last month, in no way illustrates the overall Irish League picture. The game is going through a lean time but it is far from finished. Indeed a colleague recently pointed out in a timely article that of the 12 Irish League managers no fewer than six relied on the game for a living . . . and don't appear to have reached starvation level yet!

Jimmy McAlinden controls Distillery as full-time boss in spite of their problems, Jimmy Hill is boss of Linfield, Doug Wood of Derry City in spite of their problems, Alex McCrae of Glentoran, Alf McMichael of Bangor and Arthur Stewart of Ballymena United.

Of the others—Billy Humphries at Ards, Gibby McKenzie at Portadown, Billy Johnston at Crusaders, Jimmy Jones at Glenavon, Kevin McGarry at Cliftonville and Bertie Peacock at Coleraine—it's a case of the best of both worlds.

But the fact that so many Irish League managers, plus a couple of full-time secretaries at club level, feel there is a living to be made still is ample reason to hope for better things.

Like a great many other things it seemed a good idea at the time. That just about sums up the much-heralded summit meetings sponsored by the I.F.A. and I.F.L. to seek solutions to the problems facing the game. But instead of producing solutions they seem to have created more problems . . . and a lot of ill-will among clubs.

ENGLAND'S LOOSENED

OF the three major European competitions the Cup Winners Cup is the "youngest" and also the only tournament which no club has as yet managed to win twice. In its 11-year-old history, four English clubs namely Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham, Manchester City and Chelsea, two German sides Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich, two Italian teams Fiorentina and AC Milan plus one Portuguese, Sporting Lisbon, one Spanish, Atletico Madrid and one from Czechoslovakia, Slovan Bratislava, have annexed this prize. This season, England's grip on this trophy was suddenly loosened, when Liverpool went out—not unexpectedly—to Bayern Munich, while Chelsea slumped—rather surprisingly—to the Swedish outfit Atvidaberg.

The last eight present an interesting collection of clubs, of which the most fancied are the only previous winners still left, Bayern Munich, Red Star Belgrade and the 1967 finalists Glasgow Rangers. This famous Scottish club has in fact taken part in the two principal European tournaments more often than any of their remaining rivals. Six times in the Champions Cup and five times in the Cup Winners Cup competition is their proud record, followed surprisingly by the Rumanian Cup holders Steaua Bucharest, who boast three participations in the Champions' and seven attempts at the Cup Winners trophy. Very experienced too, are Red Star of Belgrade to whom this contest is new, but who have already played in eight Champions Cup series.

Handicap

Any assessment of chances in European tourneys at the quarter-final stage, must inevitably take into consideration the long winter break which regularly constitutes a severe handicap to all contestants from Central and Eastern Europe. Snow and ice prevent any normal soccer activities for at least three months. In some cases, such as Sweden or Russia for instance, the enforced pause lasts even longer. Of the eight quarter-finalists, no fewer than *five* will thus be affected: Steaua Bucharest, Red Star Belgrade, Atvidaberg plus the two Dynamos from Moscow and East Berlin.

The biggest problems probably confront the modest Swedish part-timers from Atvidaberg. Their team, domiciled in a small town (population under 10,000), some 150 miles south-west of Stockholm, comprises mainly employees of a local factory. They did not expect to reach this stage of the competition—certainly not at the expense of the holders Chelsea, whom they dismissed in Round Two! Paradoxically, their quarter-final entry has embarrassed this modest little club, who are run on a shoe-string budget, mainly because in March there is normally deep snow in Sweden.

The fans follow winter sports whilst the domestic football programme does not resume until April. Atvidaberg, who pay their semi-professionals roughly £20 a week—they received the princely sum of £45 as a bonus for beating Chelsea (!)—nonetheless finished second in their First Division. They also boast the League's leading scorer in Roland Sandberg, who is their only current international.

Contenders

The Swedes are paired with another unfancied side, Dynamo East Berlin. This club is based on the local police force (!) the so-called Volkspolizei, who are making their debut in European tournaments. Dynamo have no internationals in their line-up and have never won their country's championship, but it must be remembered that the East German League have only been in existence since 1949.

And Dynamo are not the current Cup holders, they lost in the final to the champions Dynamo Dresden, who are taking part in the premier tournament. Except for Atvidaberg they have the smallest ground among the remaining contenders. The Friedrich-Ludwig Jahn Sportpark holds 25,000 but Dynamo are not drawing big crowds to their League games. A few weeks ago they were watched by a mere 2,000 fans but in the European cup matches 12,000 turned out for their meeting with Cardiff and 8,000 for the next encounter with Beerschot. It would indeed be a major upset if the winners of this tie advanced any further in this contest.

The most intriguing clash will be that between Red Star Belgrade and Moscow Dynamos, two more teams who

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GRIP

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

Arsenal goalkeeper Bob Wilson . . . his club meet Ajax Amsterdam in the European Cup.

must overcome the long break from competitive football. The Russians are complete strangers to European tournaments, not least because the Soviets did not enter any of these competitions until 1965. But the Dynamos—a club formed originally by the electrical workers and associated with their Trade Union—made a name for themselves during their remarkably successful post-war tour of Britain in 1945.

Those first Soviet visitors were sensational, drawing with Chelsea 3-3, Glasgow Rangers 2-2; they beat Arsenal by 4-3 and Cardiff by 10-1! One of Russia's most famous and respected clubs, Dynamo will forever be known on account of their greatest member: Lev Yachin, one of the world's finest goalkeepers, nicknamed the "Black Octopus". Yachin who also starred for a FIFA XI against England at Wembley in 1963 (FA's centenary celebration year), represented his country even at the age of 40!

Mysterious

Their rivals for a semi-final spot, Red Star Belgrade, are one of Yugoslavia's leading sides and they boast one of the best players in the world in outside left Dragan Dzajic.

Recently, Dzajic was struck down by a mysterious illness. At a well-known Belgrade hospital "Dragisa Misovic", he was treated for three weeks by a Dr. Nesovic who is also the club's as well as the national team's medical officer. But the player was unhappy over the secrecy surrounding his ailment and seeking a second opinion he contacted a Dr. Ercegovic, who is in charge of the military academy's clinic in Belgrade. He decided, after extensive tests, that there was nothing wrong with Dzajic! But the local fans were quick to point out that Dr. Ercegovic also happens to be the club doctor of city neighbours OFK Belgrade, and some are claiming that the "medico" was not being honest with Dzajic!

Meanwhile Dr. Nesovic, who felt insulted at having been snubbed by the player, has resigned from his post with Red Star! The latest chapter of this "Emergency Ward 10" story is that Dzajic is "recuperating" on the balmy shores of the Adriatic—on the advice of—yes, you have guessed it . . . Dr. Ercegovic!

Red Star are no strangers to British football, having already played in the Champions' Cup against Rangers, Celtic, Wolves and Manchester United.

Defeated

The favourites, Bayern Munich, are also well known in this country having put out Liverpool to reach this stage and they hold a moral ascendancy over Rangers whom they defeated in the 1967 final of this competition by 1-0. Last season the Germans eliminated Rangers in the first round of the Fairs Cup 1-0, 1-1, but then after disposing of Coventry on a 7-3 aggregate, they fell to Liverpool in the quarter-finals on an overall score of 1-4. Bayern are Germany's most redoubtable cup fighters having won the domestic trophy in 1957 and then four times in five years: 1966, 1967, 1969 (the year of their "double") and 1971.

Their stars include current internationals like Maier, Beckenbauer and Müller. The last named, a 26-year-old centre forward who has scored 42 goals in 35 internationals, was also top scorer in the last World Cup series and "European Footballer of the Year" in 1970.

Although Müller apparently wants to leave the club, his president Wilhelm Neudecker has stated that Bayern will not sell their star before his contract expires in 1973, even for 2 million D. marks (£235,000). The Bavarians will now meet Steaua Bucharest, the Rumanian Cup holders, who also played Rangers a couple of seasons ago, losing 0-2 on aggregate in the first round of this contest.

This army team who were formerly known as C.C.A. Bucharest, have plenty of experience having participated 10 times in the top two international tournaments. They entered this round with the fine credentials of a double victory over the famous Spanish side CF Barcelona by winning 1-0 away and 2-1 at home.

It must be remembered, however, that in common with other Spanish sides Barcelona have slumped into mediocrity when they could no longer rely on foreign mercenaries. They *had* a great team with South Americans like Martinez, Evaristo and Villaverde, the Hungarians Kocsis and Czibor and the Czech Kubala.

Steaua have several internationals including defenders Satmareanu and Halmageanu, plus forwards Tataru and Jordanescu. With the rise in standards in Rumania (the national team, Steaua and U.T. Arad, have all reached the quarter-finals in Euro-tourneys)—the Germans will not underestimate these tough and experienced "soldiers" from Bucharest.

The most important contenders, from the British point of view, are AC Torino who oppose Glasgow Rangers. The Italians won their country's Cup only on penalties (!), after a play-off with AC Milan ended 0-0. But they are Italy's most famous club of the immediate post war era, when Torino were champions four times in a row between 1946—1949, until their entire team perished in that tragic Superga air crash in 1949.

Currently, nine of Torino's first team have been discovered and developed in the club's own nursery. In a country where—like in England—millions change hands, these nine boys cost them a total of £17,000!

And what of Glasgow Rangers? Can they become the first Scottish club to win this trophy? They got very close in 1967, losing the final to Bayern. Rangers boast a "world record" of 34 League championship titles; they have won the Scottish Cup 19 times and the League Cup on seven occasions.

Rangers should be very difficult to beat on their own ground at Ibrox, but would still need to scale new heights to overcome such fine teams as Red Star Belgrade or Bayern Munich.

With the quarter-finals of the Eu

JACK ROLLIN looks at the two me

USSR AN SHOULD

THE Yugoslavians could be forgiven if they consider themselves unlucky to be paired with the USSR in the quater-finals of the European Championship. Because recent history at least has been rather unkind to them whenever their path has been crossed by the Soviet Union. To make matters worse their first significant meeting occurred in Paris in July 1960 in the final of the same Nations Cup for which they are now battling.

That match went to extra time before Russia won 2—1 but it was enough to set a trend for which the Yugoslavians have yet to recover. In 1962 the arena was Chile in the World Cup finals. On that occasion the Russians won 2—0. Since then there have been three meetings in friendly internationals. In Belgrade in 1966 Russia won 2—1 and had a 3—1 success at the same venue in 1969. Their last meeting proved the most decisive one of all with the Soviet Union gaining a four clear goal victory in Moscow in 1970.

Traditional

More recent form is probably a nearer guide to the outcome of the particular tie in question though the traditional form should not be ignored, of course.

Thus the Soviet Union's record over the last twelve months of not having lost a match—an honour shared only with England—looks on paper at least to be a better proposition than Yugoslavia's record of three wins, three draws and two defeats.

Looking at the results and analysing them produces two salient points. Firstly the Russian defence in ten matches has conceded just four goals —by any standard a formidable defensive record. Secondly, the Yugoslavs have failed to score in three matches—against Rumania, East Germany and Luxembourg. Moreover these three matches were played on Yugoslavian soil.

Victorious

Russia's victories were gained against El Salvador (A) 1—0, Spain (H) 2—1, Cyprus (H) 6—1, Scotland (H) 1—0 and Northern Ireland (H) 1—0. The drawn games occurred in Mexico—twice in scoreless games—Bulgaria (A) 1—1, Northern Ireland (A) 1—1 and Spain (A) 0—0.

The three Yugoslavian victories came against Holland (H) 2—0, East Germany (A) 2—1 and Mexico (H) 4—0. The drawn matches were with Brazil (A) 2—2, East Germany (H) 0—0 and Luxembourg (H) 0—0.

Their defeats were 0—1 (H) by Rumania and 1—2 (A) to Hungary. With a slightly easier programme the Russians best performances were probably against Spain in their two vital European Championship matches. In Moscow they had little to spare against a side which was suffering its first defeat in ten matches. But in Spain they had to thank their defence for a superb rearguard action against a rampant home attack. It was this pressure that showed the depth of resolution in the Soviet defence.

It has been a comforting feature for years to note the dourness of Russian teams and their lack of flair and imagination. Certainly without half a dozen goals against Cyprus they would have totalled only seven in nine matches. And with those kind of credentials the Russians would have little difficulty in gaining admission to the Italian Serie A . . .

With a more difficult year the Yugoslavian team tended to do better when there was either a meaningful European Championship match on hand or opposition of strong calibre. The 2—2 draw in Brazil during Pele's swansong was a merited performance despite the sentimental circumstances of it.

Impossible

For comments closer to the ground you have to go to the recently appointed Russian selector Alexandre Ponomarev who said: "I had a presentiment that we would draw Yugoslavia and that is that."

What he probably meant to say was that they could cope with the Yugoslavian attack and sneak a goal as they had done for the past twelve months or so.

The Yugoslavian team manager Vujadin Boskov had his say thus: "I am happy that Yugoslavia have drawn Russia, though the Russians have never lost this particular match. If we are beaten it will be normal, but if we win! And this is not impossible because strong opposition always inspires my players. I am confident.'

Less of an optimistic note is held out by Russia's captain Albert Shesternev the most capped Soviet Union international with over 80 full caps. His opinion is: "Victory is always difficult to obtain against Yugoslavia who have a consistent technique. And there is always Dragan Dzajic capable of a surprise."

Clearly the issue is whether Dzajic and company can find a way through the Russian defence moulded around Shesternev and goalkeeper Evgeny Rudakov. The latter is a worthy successor to the great Lev Yashin and is playing now as well as ever. His exploits won him the title of Russian Footballer of the Year in 1971.

Completing the back four are Revaz Dzodzuashvili (Dynamo Tbilisi) his club mate Murtaz Khurtsilava and Evgeny Lovchev (Spartak Moscow). The midfield stars are Vladimir Muntian and the newcomers Oleg Dolmatov and Vladimir Fedotov. But up front too much might be expected of Anatoly Byshovets still the most progressive Russian attacker.

Not that the Yugoslavian front line is much more virulent and it, too, quite naturally relies heavily on the talents of their captain Dzajic.

As in the reign of his predecessor Rajko Matic, Boskov is building his team round the Red Star Belgrade club. There are half a dozen of them including Dzajic in the side.

But as in the case of Russia, the most accomplished Yugoslavian footballers appear in defence. Dragan Holcer the Hajduk Split centre back had a tremendous match against England in the semi-final of the same competition in 1968 and appears to have lost none of his ability.

It all adds up to a dour struggle with perhaps a goal deciding the tie over two legs and the Russians look more likely to get this than the Yugoslavs.

Announcement

RUDOLF ILLOVSZKY has gone on record saying that he would have preferred to meet the Italians rather than face the Russians. But is sounded rather like Brian Clough's pre-FA Cup fourth round announcement that he feared the boss of opponents Notts County, Jimmy Sirrel. Perhaps he was worried that Sirrel might play! Derby won 6—0, of course.

And while the scoreline might be over generous for the Hungarians they should come out of that tie with a goal or two to spare. History is on the Hungarians side, too, since in ten matches

...ropean Championship approaching
...atches involving East European teams

...D HUNGARY PROGRESS

with Rumania they have won nine times and drawn the other one though they have not met each other since 1958. Their goal average is an impressive 38—8 as well.

The Hungarians have the benefit of a home match at first and should have sufficient a lead from this Budapest date to see them through in Bucharest. Both teams had their struggles in the European Championship though Rumania had to head a group which included Bulgaria and France while the Rumanians had only Czechoslovakia to concern them really.

Achieved

Hungary's only defeat last year was 3—0 away to Bulgaria in fact. Their six victories were achieved against Austria (A) 2—0, Yugoslavia (H) 2—1, Bulgaria (H) 2—0, France (A) 2—0, Norway (H) 4—0 and Malta A) 2—0 in what was the first qualifying match played in the 1974 World Cup!

The Hungarians also drew with Brazil (A) 0—0 and France (H) 1—1. On their recent record alone the Hungarians look good enough of course but just how much the players are keyed up at present might be judged from recent events.

Extensive

After losing 1—0 rather unluckily in Spain after having to make two late defensive changes—they went on what was to be an extensive visit to South America. But after four games—three lost, one drawn—they became homesick and cancelled the rest of the tour.

They can match the Rumanians position for position and when the Ujpest Dozsa towsome of Antal Dunai and Ferenc Bene is clicking there is no doubt that the Hungarian attack is a formidable one. Footballer of the Year Sandor Zambo is another highly rated midfield player and another Ujpest man who could cause the Rumanians a few problems.

The defence is adequate enough especially when you realise that but for the three goals conceded in Bulgaria they would have only let in two in their eight other matches last year.

Goalkeeper troubles ruined Hungary before in the 1966 World Cup but Istvan Geczi seems to have solved this problem at least for the time being. For those who lay some store to such items it may be of interest to note that before the team lost in Spain it had won five matches and drawn the other. During this period they scored 12 and conceded only one.

Angelo Niculescu, the Rumanian manager voiced his opinion of the other qualifiers of the quarter finals before the draw. "I would like to meet England. It is Belgium I am worried about." But when the draw put his team against Hungary, Niculescu stated his happiness with comments including "we need this match to prove our maturity" and "we are pleased to be playing the first leg in Budapest."

Luxury

And if his Hungarian opposite does not have a contemporary goalkeeping problem, it seems that Niculescu has got one. He appears to have decided that he can no longer afford the luxury of the antics of Necula Raducanu his giant goalkeeper. A clown a day no longer keeps the forwards at bay it seems . . . Perhaps it is a pity for in six games in 1971 Raducanu let in only three goals and not more than one in any game. But he was suspended by the F.A. for several games after throwing the ball at one of his colleagues.

Rumania's wins came against Yugoslavia (A) 1—0, Finland (A) 4—0, Czechoslovakia (H) 2—1 and Wales (H) 2—0. They drew with Bulgaria (H) 1—1 and lost 0—1 (A) to Czechoslovakia.

Compensation

Apart from Raducanu's predicament, the Rumanians have lost their golden boy Florea Dumitrache who was the pin-up of the 1970 World Cup squad but has had a bad attack of loss of form since then. But compensation has been the resurgence of Nicolae Dobrin who is looking more like the player who was the No. 1 in Rumania before Dumitrache's emergence.

The Dynamo Bucharest centre back Cornel Dinu is playing well in the back

Vitali Shevshenko of the USSR.

four, too, and his club colleague Radu Nunweiler appears a good bet in midfield again. Rapid Bucharest's captain Nicolae Lupescu will probably again team up with Dinu and in attack the chief source of danger will probably come from the new left wing discovery Jordanescu plus the experienced skipper Mircea Lucescu.

Performance

In terms of what they have done in the competition before, the Hungarians have the better Nations Cup record. They were third in the 1964 series and reached the quarter finals in 1968. Rumania's best performance was in reaching the last eight in 1960.

This time it could be that Rumania's goalkeeping problems will eventually lead to their downfall but even if these are not directly responsible, Hungary look the stronger of the two adversaries.

NEXT MONTH:

Special preview of

ENGLAND v.

WEST GERMANY

Brazilian Notebook by HANS HENNINGSEN

'Old Guard' come back for Brazil

IN July of last year, Brazil played a series of friendly matches to mark the end of Pele's international career. For those games, Brazilian manager Zagalo called on only 12 of the players who were in Brazil's World Cup squad a year earlier.

But for the forthcoming Independence Cup tournament to be staged in Brazil, Zagalo has called up some of the "old guard". The new list is:

Felix (Fluminense, 34 years old, 45 caps), Sergio (Sao Paulo, 26, 0) goalkeepers; Carlos Alberto (Santos, 27, 66), Ze Maria (Corinthians, 22, 11), Baldocchi (Corinthians, 25, 2), Brito (Botafogo, 31, 52), Marinho (Portuguesa, 24, 1), Luis Carlos (Corinthians, 25, 1), Vantuir (Atletico Mineiro, 22, 0), Everaldo (Gremio, 27, 25), Marco Antonio (Fluminense, 22, 17) defenders; Clodoaldo (Santos, 22, 28), Gersen (Sao Paulo, 31, 79), Wilson Piazza (Cruzeiro, 29, 36), Rivelino (Corinthians, 26, 43), Dirceu Lopes (Cruzeiro, 24, 13), Paulo Cesar (Flamengo, 22, 32) midfield; Jairzinho (Botafogo, 27, 69), Zequinha (Botafogo, 24, 4), Roberto (Botafogo, 28, 12), Dario (Atletico Mineiro, 25, 3), Mirandinha (Corinthians, 19, 0), Tostao (Cruzeiro, 25, 58) forwards.

Brazil seems to be the new El Dorado of South American soccer. The following foreigners are currently playing in Brazil:

Mazurkiewicz (Atletico Mineiro), Cejas (Santos), Andrada (Vasco de Gama), Aguilera (Portuguesa), Buttice (America-Rio) all goalkeepers; Forlan (Sao Paulo), Perfumo (Cruzeiro), Figueroa (Internacional), Ancheta (Gremio), Ramos Delgado (Santos), Reyes (Flamengo), Cincunegui (Atletico Mineiro) defenders; Pedro Rocha (Sao Paulo), Ibanez (Portuguesa), Madurga (Palmeiras), Hector Silva (Palmeiras) midfield; Doval (Flamengo), Repetto (Cruzeiro), Ohberti (Gremio) forwards. Fischer, Mas, Dreyer and Cybeira are all likely newcomers to Brazilian football in the near or immediate future.

The CBD, however, is anxious to impose regulations governing the number of foreign players to one per club. Even then, the CBD would be able to veto any deal it did not approve of.

At present there are too many foreign goalkeepers playing here. Brazil has a reputation of having few top-class custodians, and young talent is being stifled because of these foreigners holding down the senior places.

Brazilian clubs began to shop around for players in Argentina and Uruguay because of inflation on the home market. Even average players were being priced at around 100,000 US dollars (a large sum here) and unless the purchased player was likely to significantly increase attendances, the outlay simply wasn't worth while.

Flamengo recently paid 500,000 US dollars for Paulo Cesar.

Prices were lower in Argentina and Uruguay; and Brazilian clubs offset some of the outlay by agreeing to play friendly matches and by exchanging some of their own players. Now it looks as though players from Argentina and Uruguay, along with other South American countries, will have to look elsewhere.

The Paulo Cesar deal constitutes a record in Brazil. A group of businessmen who support Flamengo helped put up the money, which will be paid over a long term.

There were a number of changes among managers, too. All the top five Rio clubs changed their managers. Zagalo went from Fluminense to Flamengo (new salary approximately £1,000 monthly), Tim from Coritiba to Botafogo, Zizinho from America to Vasco de Gama, Paulinho de Almeida joined America. Fluminense are still looking, although Traglavini (ex-Palmeiras) has been appointed for a 90-day period.

Until recently there had been more transfer activity in Sao Paulo than Rio de Janeiro. The Sao Paulo clubs are, generally, richer than those in Rio. Perhaps this is because there are no beaches in Sao Paulo . . . in Rio the people spend their time and money on the Copacabana or Ipanema beaches. In Sao Paulo, the people go to the clubs, which are like towns, where you can spend all day with the family.

Santos purchased Alcindo from Gremio and Ze Carlos from America (Rio); Palmeiras bought Madurga from Boca Juniors for 200,000 US dollars; Portuguesa signed Ibanez from Liverpool (Uruguay).

Brito, a member of Brazils World Cup winning team, will be available for the Independence Cup. Brito was suspended for a a year after attacking referee Jose Aldo Pereria at the end of a national championship match against Atletico Mineiro. A crowd of 70,000 and over a million on TV saw Brito's crime.

But his sentence was recently reduced to six months, making him available in July.

Another famous name in trouble over referees is Nilton Santos, full back for Brazil in both the 1958 and 1962 World Cup finals. Nilton (called the "Encyclopedia of Soccer"), now director of Botafogo (Brito's club, incidentally), attacked referee Armando Marques after a match against Aletico.

Santos told the Press that he had no grouse with Marques over the match against Atletico but an earlier encounter with Sao Paulo. Santos claimed that Marques (Brazil's top referee and paid approximately £1,000 a month by the CBD) should be very good and neutral and that Marques was not.

Fluminense are to build a new stadium, with a capacity of 50,000. They say that a new ground is needed because the cost of hiring the Maracana is too great for matches that do not attract sufficient fans to make ends meet.

New floodlights are being installed at the Maracana. The most beautiful stadium in the world—and the biggest—will soon have perhaps the best floodlighting in the world. But one problem remains . . . the state of the pitch. With over 240 matches a year played at the ground, improvement is difficult.

Brazil have officially invited Scotland to play in the Independence Cup, following the refusal of England, Spain, West Germany and Italy. If the three best teams from Europe do not participate, the tournament obviously will lose much significance.

Newspapers here in Brazil interpreted the refusal of England, West Germany and Italy as an anti-Joao Havelange move. Personally, I think that Mr. Havelange has a legitimate claim to be President of FIFA, but whether such an appointment would be good for European soccer is another matter.

NEW CODE MUST STAY

by ERIC BATTY

THE current season began in England with a mixture of protest and cautious optimism. Protests from the players that they had not been forwarned that referees had been given 'new' instructions and optimism from people like myself who had known for years that on our professional grounds, anarchy had replaced the rule of law.

If the protests were to some extent justified so, too, was the optimism. For a few short weeks people agreed that players with real ability were being allowed to demonstrate their skill, that the illegal 'tackle' from behind had been banished and that the standard of play had risen to a marked degree. But the optimism was short-lived and with more than a thousand bookings on the scoreboard it is clear that the *kicking* has returned; that the referees have lost their initial enthusiasm and while some have even given up and actually resigned, many more appear to be disillusioned.

Hatchet men

Turning a blind eye to hacking and holding, the referees have allowed the game to slip back to where it was a year ago. Kicking is back in vogue and the outlawed tackle from behind is once more king. The hatchet men are back in business.

It would be easy to blame the referees and indeed I am convinced that many of them are not up to the standard required if the Football League's new code is to be enforced. They know the Laws but it seems they cannot interpret them; they are aware of the Official Decisions of the FIFA Board but they do not know the professional game of soccer. Either that, or the referees generally LACK THE COURAGE TO STAND UP TO THE PLAYERS AND MAKE THE LAWS STICK!

Avoid trouble

Obviously I have not been able to see all the Football Leagues' Officials in action but if I were running a professional Football CLUB as opposed to a professional Football BUSINESS there is one man whom I would welcome every week: Mr. Keith Walker. Whenever I have seen him, he has 'whistled' impeccably. Who else would have the courage to caution (book) a home player in the opening seconds of a match?

Many referees would do well to take a day off and go to see him perform. Too many officials, it seems to me, are trying to serve too many masters, though I will be the first to admit that controlling a big match today, with big money at stake is far from easy. Some officials are trying to avoid trouble while others are attempting to be popular amongst the players. They should all serve one master with one objective: the game and the ancient art of 'foot the ball', the Laws of the game must be their bible.

Suspended sentence

But if referees generally began the campaign with new heart and have generally become disillusioned, I would not be surprised. Too many players have successfully appealed against cautions; many more have received paltry-fines and suspended sentences from over-indulgent Disciplinary Boards.

At the start of the season there was perhaps some justification for clemency bearing in mind that many players were booked for offences that may not even have brought a free kick last season. But this should have applied only to players that were cautioned during the first two weeks of the season. After that everyone should have got the Football League's message and behaved accordingly.

If the players are justified in their complaints that referees interpret the Laws inconsistently—and I believe they are—the referees would be equally right to claim that there is a lack of consistency between the overall aims of the Football League and the Disciplinary Boards that are set up and controlled by the Football Association. Again there apepars to me—firm figures not being available this is an impression only—to be an inconsistency in the way in which Disciplinary Boards handle cases concerning players from different Divisions.

My impression from following the decisions of the Boards are that players from Clubs in the Third and Fourth Divisions are likely to receive small fines (fair) and Suspensions. Players from First Division Clubs are more likely to receive larger fines but SUSPENDED SENTENCES.

New directives

It must be clear by now that if a clean up campaign is to be successful it must be the result of concerted action between the three bodies—the Football League, the Referees and the Disciplinary Boards. To this end the F.L. must maintain their pressure on the referees, re-inforcing it with even broader aims and new directives. The Referees must play their part according to Law V and enforce the Laws of the game, while the Disciplinary Boards must make it plain that foul play does not pay. More players must be sent off the field and more players, particularly those from the higher Divisions of the Football League, must be suspended.

This is the only thing that will discourage the hatchet men—to stop them from playing!

Finally, it must be clear that by handing out suspended sentences to players that appear before them the Disciplinary Boards are making a rod for their own backs. In the early part of next season quite a few players will appear before them with four, five or six week suspended sentences already recorded against them. In the circumstances, anything less than six, eight, ten week suspensions will ridicule the game and its Laws, but such action will bring about a greater outcry from the players than the clean-up code did at the start of this season.

Martin Chivers . . . could prove a thorn in the flesh of West Germany.

'Quite with th says

by ART

THE GERMAN national side, who are unbeaten at home for nearly seven years and who in their last two meetings have defeated England, have no reason to fear Sir Alf Ramsey's men in the forthcoming quarter-finals of the European Championship. But West Germany's last set-back on their own ground was inflicted, strangely enough, by England, who snatched a 1—0 win at Nuremberg on May 12, 1965, thanks to a goal by Terry Paine.

The first ever German triumph over the English was achieved at Hanover on June 1, 1968, when Beckenbauer scored in their 1—0 success. In the next and last encounter Germany also emerged victorious, 3—2 in extra time at Leon on June 14, 1970. Goals by Beckenbauer, Seeler and Müller in that World Cup quarter-final also ended England's bid to retain the Jules Rimet trophy.

Selection

From that German team a number of players have either retired from the international arena, or have passed their peak or been simply replaced by better performers. Those two defensive stalwarts, Willi Schulz and Karl-Heinz Schnellinger, are no longer considered, whilst the great Uwe Seeler has formally bid farewell to the national side after gaining a record 72 caps. Forward Johannes Löhr has lost his place; Höttges and Libuda are not rated first choice for the respective positions of full back and outside right.

Even the selection of the fine mid-field schemer Wolfgang Overath, who only a year ago was voted No. 5 footballer in Europe (*France Football* poll), is now in serious doubt. This follows the emergence of Günter Netzer (27) of Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach who has the added advantage of club colleagues like Vogts, Wimmer and Heynckes, plus former team mate Köppel (now with VfB Stuttgart), being included to form a solid club-block as a nucleus of the national XI. Overath remains, of course, in the squad but whether there is room for two "generals" so similar in style remains debatable.

Thus of the team—including the substitutes—which removed England from the World Cup series in Mexico, only Maier in goal, Vogts and Beckenbauer in defence, plus Grabowski and Müller in attack, can be regarded as certainties, whilst Fichtel is rated as a possible. Franz Beckenbauer has now, since the departure of Schulz and Schnellinger, made the position of a *libero*, which he occupies for his club Bayern Munich and where he prefers to play anyway, his own. Team mate Sepp Maier is still Germany's No. 1 goalkeeper, though he is now pushed by such up-and-coming stars as Nigbur (Schalke), Kleff (Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach) or Gross (Hertha Berlin), or Burdenski (Arminia Bielefeld). All these custodians are highly talented—a further proof how well the Germans are now served in goal.

Automatic

Berti Vogts, the country's "Footballer of the Year" and just about the finest two-footed full back in Europe, can play on either flank, whilst Jürgen Grabowski has established himself as the most consistent orthodox winger in the land. Finally Gerd Müller who as the world's top striker is an automatic choice. From the German squad who performed in the other Mexico games, Wolfgang Weber and Sigi Held are still very much in the reckoning; but Haller as well as goalkeeper Wolter have probably worn the national colours for the last time. And Patzke and Lorenz, since their involvement in the bribery scandals, no longer merit consideration.

Of the newcomers, the Bayern pair of defenders Breitner and Schwarzenbeck will dispute the left full back post, because manager Helmut Schön will entrust the centre back spot to the experienced Weber or Fichtel—if Germany play away, then both could be used. Alternately in an attacking formation, the midfield might include both Herbert Wimmer and Horst Köppel, in support to the flamboyant Netzer. Up front another Gladbacher, Jupp Heynckes, will provide the additional spearhead to Müller. Thus Germany's best team at the moment, would look something like this: Maier; Vogts, Beckenbauer, Weber, Schwarzenbeck; Wimmer, Netzer, Fichtel; Grabowski, Müller, Heynckes.

Evidence

This is probably a stronger, though slightly less experienced side than that which was on duty in Mexico. But there, such pillars as Schulz, Schnellinger and Seeler were already showing signs of wear and tear. The present German team has demonstrated its power and one must admire their goal scoring average over the past three years—the highest of the eight European Championship quarter-finalists—with 2.4 goals per match. England's ratio is only 1.9 If both these countries have occasionally lapsed, then England, on the evidence of the two games against the Swiss or their insipid displays v. Wales and Northern Ireland last May, have gone back since Mexico.

England have found no replacement for Bobby Charlton and they still lack flair and penetration not to mention their chronic inability to adjust to different opponents and conditions. There are still too many old hands clinging to their places—the average age of the current team being 27½, and only one player

happy 'he draw' Muller

THUR ROTMIL

The Olympia stadium in Berlin, where West Germany will face England in May.

(McFarland) is under 25! The fact that the fixture problem may handicap Sir Alf Ramsey's preparations is regrettable though it was avoidable.

German observers have remarked sarcastically—but not without justification—that if the English clubs and legislators persist in supporting a cumbersome League Championship then that is their affair. The dates for these European Championship quarter-finals were known and communicated by the European Football Union some two years ago. Accordingly, the Germans arranged their League programme, leaving those dates—April 29 and May 13—free for the internationals—without even being certain of reaching the last eight! England, who had the easiest group of all in which to qualify—with Switzerland, Greece and Malta—should also have left themselves with these free dates.

Frankly it is an imposition to ask the Germans to play the first leg on the preceding Wednesday (April 26) barely three days after their own League round when the top players could be injured and thus cutting down their own preparations. In any case there is on the Tuesday (April 25) as well as on Wednesday another full programme of English First Division fixtures!

German reaction to the pairing with England has been varied. **Manager Helmut Schön:** "We can't pick and choose easy or difficult opposition. But if we want to reach the last four, then we must beat whoever is in our way. It could have been Italy, Hungary or Yugoslavia; still I am pleased that the first match is in England. The English will also think: What tough opponents, these Germans!"

Beckenbauer: "The English will be strong not least because they want revenge for their defeat in Mexico."

Berti Vogts: "The England team will surely be different from that lot who were made to look ridiculous by the Swiss. Perhaps they'll fall back on some of the "old hands" who could give us trouble."

Most optimistic was **Gerd Müller.** "That match in Leon looked to be lost. At 2—2, I didn't think anymore that we could win. Still, I'd rather face the English than the Italians. Frankly I am quite happy with the draw, although I would have preferred to meet the Hungarians."

So much for the voices of the men involved. Now what about the general prospects and forecasts for the two epic clashes which have fired the imagination of millions of fans in both countries? Firstly, we must ignore the ill-informed and quite ludicrous comparisons already made in some medias, predicting that the German national side might play as ultra-defensively as Bayern Munich in the 0—0 draw at Liverpool, in a Cup winners' Cup tie.

Caution

On that day, apart from leaving behind the injured Hansen and Zobel, every other German player needed either pain-killing injections or tablets—including a very sick Gerd Müller, who only took the field because Bayern had no adequate reserves with them! And Müller was ordered to stay in his own half, so he didn't have to run to much yet, his mere presence caused Liverpoool to exercise extreme caution. If only Liverpool had known that they faced so many "invalids" . . .

The impartial view must be that on recent form the Germans have an edge in most departments. England have no full back to compare with Vogts, or a *libero* with the stature of a Beckenbauer. This advantage is slightly off-set by the commanding Bobby Moore and his wealth of experience. In goal Sepp Maier is now as good as Gordon Banks, who for all the occasional fine games has clearly lost some of his consistency, which at the age of 33 is hardly surprising.

In midfield, a Netzer in top form—he was voted No. 4 player in Europe—when supported by the tireless Wimmer, with whom he has an almost telepathic understanding, is better equipped all-round than the rather jaded Ball or the recently erratic Peters.

Up front, Müller is a world class striker with plenty of goals not only in the Bundesliga—where he leads the all-time scorers list with 169 goals in 6½ seasons—but at the highest international level. England's Martin Chivers, on the other hand has yet to prove himself in top class tournaments and against opposition other than Switzerland, Greece and Malta. Lee is one of England's trump cards, but Hurst appears to have lost his goal touch.

Grabowski and Heynckes, totally different in style, are at least as good as this pair, especially with the kind of support they can expect from the strong German midfield. Of course other factors like injury problems or the inevitable physical demands at the end of a long season, the day's form etc., will all play their role.

It is interesting to note that Germany's biggest sports publication *Kicker-Sportsmagazin*, in their customary survey conducted every six months has awarded the accolade "world class" to only *two* German players. Beckenbauer and Müller. How different it is in England where during the same period of time I noted these players rated by British journalists as "world class": McFarland, Ball, Cooper, Hunter, Shilton, Bell, Lee, Charlton, Banks, Mullery, Chivers, Peters, Moore, Hurst and Marsh. . .

BRIAN GLANVILLE visits Brentford

NICE GUY QUIETLY

THE first time I ever saw Brentford play was 30 years ago in a London War Cup semi-final against the Arsenal at Stamford Bridge. They drew 0-0, beat Arsenal in the replay and went on to win the Cup Final at Wembley—I was present again, up from boarding school on a fortuitous dental appointment—beating Portsmouth 2-0. Pompey had most of the team which had won them the FA Cup itself, three years earlier, against the Wolves, but Brentford were livelier and better, Leslie Smith, their England outside-left, getting both of the goals.

The first time I saw Frank Blunstone play was in Bologna, on a very cold afternoon, 18 years ago. The occasion was the first-ever England Under-23 match, and though Blunstone, then a teenage left-winger with Chelsea, had one very good half, Young England went down 3-0. I thought then, and think now, what an immensely decent and likeable fellow Blunstone was. His future success in football consoled me for the fact that I had to remain in Italy to suffer the backwash of Young England's defeat—which came hard on the heels of the full team's thrashing at Wembley by Hungary. Brentford's success this season has been the more welcome to me because it has been achieved under his managership.

I confess I have been a little surprised, simply because Blunstone seemed to me altogether too kind and decent a man to survive and flourish in the jungle of today's professional football. 'Nice guys," as the old American baseball manager Leo Durocher was wont to observe, "finish last."

More germane, perhaps, are the remarks of Brentford's joint chairman, the wealthy builder's merchant and developer Mr. Les Davey: "We have so many people in football who shout and holler that often the quiet technique gets better results."

Grandstand

It is Davey, who originally stood on the terraces at Brentford 50 years ago, before there was ever a grandstand at Griffin Park, who has conceived the challenging idea of moving the club out to Hounslow. He laments the fact that even at the grounds of the mighty—or perhaps especially there—at Arsenal, Spurs or Chelsea, it takes an age to drive away after the match. He visualises a multiple stadium with facilities not only for parking, but for many other sports, for shopping, even for leaving one's children, while one watches the game.

Not that Brentford, this season, have been poorly supported. Gates have reached an average of over 10,000, there were more than 18,000 in the ground for a Christmas game, while when I myself watched them lose at home to Reading on one of their less happy afternoons—a bitter cold one, too—there were more than 12,000. Many much senior clubs would envy them Griffin Park, where once trod the mighty feet of Dai Hopkins, Dave McCulloch, Joe James, Crozier and, of course, Leslie Smith.

Later, though, Brentford, promoted in 1935, went down to Division II in the first season after the war, there were the bright days of Ron Greenwood and Jimmy Hill, in the early 1950s, when the club produced Peter Broadbent; and later, Jimmy Bloomfield. They were, alas, the first to fall all the way, like Lucifer, from the heights of the First to the murky depths of the Fourth Division, whence they have risen, only to fall again.

Veteran

Blunstone, who was the Chelsea youth team manager, has beyond question done splendid things with them. The players, such as the veteran centre-half Peter Gelson and the clever captain Bobby Ross, praise him both for his tactical flair and for the way he has made training more interesting. He tries as often as possible to change the venue, now taking the side to Osterley Park, Richmond Park or Gunnersbury Park, now to Feltham Stadium with an international sprinter, Ian Green, in charge of running. Sometimes they start their sprints out of blocks. Each Wednesday there is a cross-country run. As Ross observes, training at Brentford has always been hard, but now it is more interesting.

Practical

Moreover, Blunstone's transfer policy is extremely shrewd. Five years ago, Brentford were on the point of being swallowed up by Queen's Park Rangers. The plan was that Rangers would move from Shepherd's Bush, take over Griffin Park, and Brentford, for all practical purposes, would softly and silently vanish away. Mr. Davey, with the aid of the late Ron Blindell, formerly chairman of Plymouth, fore-

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BLUNSTONE SUCCEEDS

stalled the merger, Mr. Jack Dunnett, then chairman of Brentford, now at Notts County, departed, and Brentford survived; with a debt of £104,000. Now there is none, Blunstone, who took over on Boxing Day, 1969, having got them finally into the black and wiped off the £34,000 which remained when he was appointed. The sale of Roger Cross to Fulham for £30,000 was materially helpful, though John O'Mara, the club's prolific centre-forward, misses the balls Cross laid back to him, from in front of goal.

Contract

O'Mara, like the gifted little Docherty, is a splendid example of Blunstone's shrewd transfer sense. Docherty, who has had several spells with Brentford, on this occasion returned to them from Reading for the price of a mere £250; the paying up of his contract. O'Mara came from Wimbledon, for £750. The curious thing is that Blunstone had watched him play nine or ten times before a fine performance in the London Challenge Cup against a strong Crystal Palace side—"He was as good as any of the Palace players"—convinced him of O'Mara's possibilities.

"He's six foot four (*actually six feet two and a half*) and they take liberties with him," Blunstone complained. In the week O'Mara received his five-week suspension. ("See you at the far post in five weeks, John," said Docherty, after the Reading game.)

Alternative

O'Mara himself, voluble, downright and sceptical, so often employs the word "plastic" as a term of contempt that it seems an alternative form of punctuation. His rovings around the country in minor football, allowed to slip away by Bury, spurned by Gillingham, cast out into the wilderness of the Southern League, has inevitably left its mark. So has the regular buffeting he gets from centre-halves, with little protection from referees. "I don't blame the players," says Blunstone, "don't get me wrong. I blame the referees for not coming down on them."

The manager O'Mara talks about most warmly is the former Arsenal reserve and Reading inside-forward, Les Henley, whom he had at Wimbledon; and who was recently sacked: "He believed in me, and made me believe in myself again, because my confidence had been shattered in the last four years . . . I've always had the skill and the ability, but it only lasted 20 minutes, the stamina saps. But full-time training, a more professional look at the game, definitely a lot fitter, having to pace myself, more experience and the assistance of Frank's coaching" have made him a new, formidable man.

Brentford can, financially, afford to keep him, but in the long run, if his goalscoring vein continues, one assumes they'll have to sell. Who, then, would score their goals? And how long could they last in the Third Division, which they surely must reach, with a playing staff of 15 and no reserve team? Time will tell. Meanwhile, one can only hope Blunstone's methods will continue to bear fruit; and to sympathise with the ill-used O'Mara when he says: "The referees have got to treat players as *people*."

Brian Turner of Brentford.

Post-war survey CZECHOSLOVAKIA by Eric Batty

SLOVAKS THE GIA

DURING the first three seasons of the post-war game the Czech championship was dominated by the "old firms" Sparta and Slavia, the traditional Prague giants. Since then Sparta have flickered intermittently while Slavia have all but disappeared and certainly they are no longer the force they were in the thirties.

In 1949 the Czechs changed their season from the conventional autumn-spring to an arrangement whereby the season was started and finished in the same calendar year. But this year also marked the beginning of a new era with Slovan Bratislava taking the league title for only the second time. From this year on, apart from the years of Dukla domination, this was the end of the Ceske Ulicka — the short pass — on which the successes of Sparta and Slavia had been built. From now on the championship was thrown open to be won by the team of the moment.

International reputation

Slovan Bratislava took the title three years in a row but while they were taking the honours Dukla Prague were gathering their strength. Formed in 1948 and the team of the Czechoslovak Army they were known during these early years as U.D.A. and A.T.K. and the man behind them was Karel Kolsky, a pre-war star who gathered about him a group of keen young men whose talent he had spotted.

Though Kolsky had passed from the Dukla scene by the time the club acquired an international reputation in the early '60s, it was he who sowed the seeds for success. Amongst his signings were unknown teenagers Ladislav Novak (now boss of the national team) and with 74 caps the all-time most capped player; Josef Masopust, the only Czech to earn the coveted European Footballer of the Year award and Svatopluk Pluskal. All three starred for Czechoslovakia in the 1962 World Cup Final against Brazil but Kolsky did more than sign them and many of their Dukla colleagues who were to win championship honours later. He brought them up according to his own creed and instilled in them a dedication to the game and a willingness to accept responsibility.

Eight times in thirteen seasons Dukla took the league title and when at their peak between 1960 and 1964 they won it four times in a row. In addition they gained fame in the New York International Tournament and made a reputation for themselves in the European Cup.

When Dukla's star began to wane, Sparta Prague came back briefly into the reckoning but meanwhile the game had begun to change and since 1967 the leadership of the Czech game has been in the East—Slovakia. Sparta remain true to their traditions even today and their fans must be almost unique in that they would rather see their team play skilful football than have them win matches. During the last ten years Sparta have had some superbly skilful players but wedded to a style of play that has its roots in the thirties, they have yet to find a coach who can lead them into a new era.

The Slovaks on the other hand have developed a new conception spearheaded by previously unknown Spartak Trnava and the man who led them to success, Anton Malatinsky. Together with their neighbours, Slovan Bratislava, they have dominated the last five years, with Slovan leaders at the half way mark in the current campaign and no sign yet of a new challenge from Bohemia.

Modern manner

In Slovakia there is one inherent advantage in that youngsters in the villages still have little else to do but play football, while life in the big cities is full of alternatives. But clubs in Eastern Czechoslovakia use the raw material which is at their disposal in a modern manner, developing a game that is based on quick tackling in defence and sharp, incisive combined play in attack. Meanwhile Slavia are neither fish nor fowl and Dukla are limited to a few regular soldiers and young men temporarily on National Service and inevitably lack stability. AC Sparta remain the brightest hope for Bohemia but there is no indication yet that the domination of the Slovak clubs is about to be brought to an end.

	Champions	P	W	D	L	Goals F.A.	P*
1945–46	AC Sparta Praha	18	16	0	2	80.34	32
1946–47	Slavia SK	26	19	2	5	110.54	40
1947–48	AC Sparta Praha	20	12	3	5	62.35	27
1949	Slovan Bratislava	26	18	5	3	93.33	41
1950	Slovan Bratislava	26	16	3	7	62.35	35
1951	Slovan Bratislava	26	14	5	7	58.36	33
1952	AC Sparta Praha	26	18	5	3	63.22	41
1953*	Dukla Praha	13	10	2	1	41.12	22
1954	AC Sparta Praha	22	13	4	5	45.21	30
1955	Slovan Bratislava	22	11	5	4	41.14	31
1956	Dukla Praha	22	12	8	2	57.20	32
1957–58	Dukla Praha	33	16	8	9	60.38	40
1958–59	Inter-Bratislava	26	16	8	2	56.27	40
1959–60	Spartak Hradec Kralove	26	13	8	5	43.27	34
1960–61	Dukla Praha	26	17	5	4	66.23	39
1961–62	Dukla Praha	26	15	5	6	81.30	35
1962–63	Dukla Praha	26	16	3	7	49.25	35
1963–64	Dukla Praha	26	16	5	5	52.26	37
1964–65	AC Sparta Praha	26	18	6	2	59.22	42
1965–66	Dukla Praha	26	13	7	6	40.23	33
1966–67	AC Sparta Praha	26	18	3	5	53.21	39
1967–68	Spartak Trnava	26	15	5	6	57.26	35
1968–69	Spartak Trnava	26	17	5	4	50.21	39
1969–70	Slovan Bratislava	30	16	11	3	39.15	43
1970–71	Spartak Trnava	30	17	6	7	52.27	40

TOP SCORER

Bican (Slavia SK)	31
Bican (Slavia SK)	43
Cejp (Sparta Praha)	21
Hlavacek (Slavia SK)	28
Bican (Vitkovice ZKG)	22
Jaros (Union Teplice)	16
Wiecek (Banik Ostrava)	20
Majer (SONP Kladno)	13
Pesek (Sparta Praha)	15
Pazicky (Slovan Bratislava)	19
Dvorak (Dukla Praha)	15
Wiecek (Banik Ostrava)	25
Wiecek (Banik Ostrava)	20
Pucher (Slovan Nitra)	18
Kucera (Dukla Praha)	17
Pavlovic (Tatran Presov)	17
Scherer (Inter-Bratislava)	24
Petros (Tatran Presov)	19
Pavlovic (Tatran Presov)	21
Bencz (Jadnota Trencin)	21
Michalik (Banik Ostrava)	15
Adamec (Spartak Trnava)	22
Adamec (Spartak Trnava)	19
Petras (Dukla Banik. Bystr.)	20
Adamec (Spartak Trnava)	16
Adamec (Spartak Trnava)	16
Nehoda (TJ Gottwaldov)	16

K S NOW GIANTS

Jan Capkovic.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESSES

AC Sparta Praha	18
Slavia SK	14
Dukla Praha	8
Slovan Bratislava	5
Spartak Trnava	3
Inter-Bratislava	1
Spartak Hradec Kralove	1
Viktoria Zizkov	1

FA CUP VICTORIES

Dukla Praha	4
Slovan Bratislava	3
Spartak Trnava	2
AC Sparta Praha	1
TJ Gottwaldov	1

No competition until 1960-61

Notes:
* Customary final tie. In other seasons the final played on two leg basis.
**First named team won the trophy on penalty kicks.

NOTE:
*In 1953 season the second half of the programme was cancelled after the national team had qualified for the 1954 World Cup.

Dukla Praha	3	Dynamo Zilina	1*
Slovan Bratislava	5	Dukla Praha	2
Slovan Bratislava	9	Slavia SK	0
AC Sparta Praha	4	VSS Kosice	1*
Dukla Praha	0	Slovan Bratislava	0**
Dukla Praha	6	Tatran Presov	1
Spartak Trnava	4	AC Sparta Praha	4**
Slovan Bratislava	2	Dukla Praha	1
Dukla Praha	2	VCHZ Pardubice	1
TJ Gottwaldov	3	Slovan Bratislava	3**
Spartak Trnava	7	Skoda Plzen	2

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ARTIGAS ALLEN, B

Pierre Sinbaldi, manager of Las Palmas.

BELIEVE it or not! The day Salvador Artigas replaced Ronnie Allen as manager of Atletico Bilbao he gave an official press interview and said: "There is nothing much wrong with Atletico. Ronnie has done a good job. The physical fitness is below par, but nothing that can't be put right within a few days." Very correct and commendable!

Nine weeks later after suffering ignominious defeats and playing "their worst football for 50 years", Artigas-controlled Atletico were in the same league position (bottom but one) as when Allen left. What does Artigas say then? "Ronnie Allen destroyed Atletico Bilbao. The situation is entirely because of the mistakes he made."

That makes me shudder with disgust. I can't think of a word strong enough for that kind of comment. I thought there was a comradeship amongst managers!

Spanish football is slowly becoming, perhaps not Sodom and Gomorrah, but certainly the Tower of Babel—yet some circles still want to open the doors to foreigners. Heavens, haven't we enough already?

'Just look at the list of gold-diggers in 'Klondyke'

At present nine of the 18 First Division clubs have foreign managers, each, for better or worse, imparting different tactics, psychologies and training methods. Can you wonder that "Supremo" Ladislov Kubala (himself a Czechoslovak - Hungarian - Spaniard) insists upon regular get-togethers and ten days' concentration before International matches?

Foreigners

Just look at the list of gold-diggers in Spain's managerial "Klondyke" . . . £12,000 to £18,000 a year plus double bonuses, etc. (I repeat) etc. . . . is hardly to be sneezed at. AUSTRIA, Max Merkel (Atletico Madrid); ARGENTINE, Alfredo di Stefano (Valencia); BRAZIL, Edwaldo Izidio "Vava" (Granada); HOLLAND, Rinus Michels (Barcelona); FRANCE, Pierre Sinbaldi (Las Palmas); GREECE, Dan Georgiadis (Seville); HUNGARY, Ferenc Szusza (Betis), and Jenos Kalmar (Malaga); URUGUAY, José Santamaria (Español). And until recently ENGLAND, Ronnie Allen (Atletico Bilbao).

There are several famous foreigners in the Second Division — Frenchman Lucian Muller, former Real Madrid and Barcelona star, who is certain to take Castellon into the First Division. Brazilian Otto Bumbel, valiantly trying to save Real Mallorca from relegation. Uruguayan Hector Nuñez in Tenerife . . . with Olsen and Forneris (Argentine),

---

THE Hungarians have gone . . . all is peaceful and quiet, and Madrid belongs to Spain again. Rudolf Illovszky and his over-publicised National side moved on to meet half-a-dozen club sides in South America before their clash with Rumania in the Nations Cup. That they won some of those games means they played a darn sight better than when beaten 1-0 by Spain. Oh yes, they had considerable technical ability and were very correct, but played without heart, determination or any resemblance of fight.

Thank heaven for their mid-field players Lajos Szucs (Honved) and Csaba Vidats (Vasas) and the brilliant Ferenc Bene (Ujpest Dozsa). They at least saved Hungary's honour and reminded us that we weren't playing against Doolittle United.

Manager Illovszky said before the match: "We are among the eight best in Europe," and that "West Germany and Italy, in that order, are the strongest. England? Are about the same as us." (He must have been joking, or talking about Bradford Park Avenue.) After the game his comment was: "Spain is a fine side (they weren't against Hungary) . . . we play better in Budapest." (They'll have to . . . *and* in Bucharest.)

But let's be kind . . . it *was* the first match of their tour and they *could* have been a little below form.

On the other hand the incredible welcome that Ladislov Kubala gave his countrymen may have mesmerised them. It made us wonder whether Lasy was "Supremo" of Spain . . . or Hungary.

He was "honorary technical consultant" to manager Illovzky and father confessor to the Hungarian players, who called him Uncle Kubala. He solved their countless problems—training, studs (boots, I mean), transport, entertainment, language—and was a most sympathetic sick visitor. (When Pancsics was taken to the clinic, injured in training, Lasy was there as a visitor even before manager Illovszky.)

In fact he was so obviously attached to the Hungarians that when Spain scored the winning goal I'm sure he didn't know whether to cheer or cry. He even did that right. He cheered . . . with a long, sad face.

And as a host he was the mostest. He laid on a week's invitation, with tremendous V.I.P. treatment from the Costa Brava town of Calella; played together with his two sons for Calella against the Hungarians in a festival match; and one evening entertained the whole party of 25 at his nearby country estate. He just couldn't do enough.

Really, it was rather pathetic and touching. Although it's over 20 years since Kubala left his homeland, he was visibly moved, excited and thrilled to be with his compatriots again.

PRAISES BUT THEN...

NORMAN CUTLER from SPAIN

Daveik (Czechoslovak) and others waiting on the sidelines, with dozens of Spaniards for a hot seat, any hot seat, to become vacant.

Among the players are 142 foreigners, many of whom are looked upon as Spaniards because sometime or other they have mysteriously found a Spanish father. All are from South American countries — Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentine, Chile and Peru. And to add to the United Nations atmosphere, 61 overseas aides have visited Spain so far, this season.

Football undoubtedly spans the world, but at times it seems as though the whole world has descended upon Spain. It's a good job a football writer — even a humble English one — doesn't have to speak all the languages. (I find bad language is most useful sometimes.)

Colleagues

The future of Francisco Gento, who retired this season, is in the managerial world. He has already started his climb to emulate former colleagues di Stefano (Valencia), Puskas (Panathinaikos), Joseito (Granada), Rial (Spain's Under 23's) and Santamaria (Español), from the ground floor, in juvenile football.

But, however successful he becomes, you can be sure he will not be far away from Real Madrid. If Miguel Muñoz ever leaves or moves up to the Directorate, Gento will be his successor. It's no secret that Bernabeu is handling Gento in exactly the same way as he did Muñoz when he promoted him from the League side to manager 12 years ago.

Paco passed his Federation Managerial Course with honours and is now in charge of Real's Juvenile "C" group. His pupils consist of 20 youngsters between the ages of 12 and 16 who train with Gento three evenings a week, as a separate entity but under a general club policy. Whether it's the manager or the players I don't know, but so far the "C" Eleven has played 18 matches and lost only one point.

Every Sunday morning throughout the season Gento, former star Feliz Ruiz and other of the technical staff are at the club's Sports City organising trials for 250 youngsters, all with dreams of one day playing for Real Madrid. (In the last ten years Real has given trials to 31,327 hopefuls.)

History was made in Cordoba, City of the Caliphs, when the club president, D. Rafael Campanero, resigned after his club's 4-0 home defeat by Valencia.

Normally poor results bring down the manager—a third of Spain's 118 professional clubs change managers twice a year. This time it is the president who departs while the manager—Vava, the famous Brazilian World Cup (1958-1962) star—stays. A situation like that in Spain is absolutely unique!

Vava told the club's Board of Directors very clearly *before he signed* in July that "it will be a miracle if Cordoba stay in the First Division. Your team is young and inexperienced and, except for two players, not very talented. *Nothing I can do will alter that.* You need at least six good new players to stand a chance." Cordoba acquired two, Fermin and Sanchis from Real Madrid.

In spite of Vava's brutal frankness President Campanero insisted upon him becoming manager saying: "If Cordoba fails the responsibility will be mine alone. I promise you that it will be my head that will fall."

Insults

Cordoba just haven't the class or a chance. Their return to the Second Division is inevitable. Broken, particularly by spectator ingratitude and insults, President Campanero (who took Cordoba into the First Division and reduced their debts from £108,000 to nil) insisted on fulfilling his promise . . . and resigned.

Alfredo Di Stefano, manager of Valencia.

The Dutch scene.....by JOHN SPARROW

AZ'67 take over saves bankruptcy

DUTCH league club AZ'67, relegated from the top Premier Division at the end of last season, has been taken over by a sponsor to avoid bankruptcy. Massive debts and abysmal gates had brought them within an ace of winding up when an electrical goods firm stepped in with a 12th-hour reprieve.

The firm, headed by ex-KFC player Klaas en Kees Molenaar, squared debts, paid overdue salaries and appointed a director to run the club. AZ'67 would live, they said, providing future annual losses did not exceed 200,000 guilders. Whether it can keep within the budget is to be established by a commission—told to map out a five-year road—by the end of the season. If the answer is "no", all the players will be transfer listed.

Professional

The old management had decided all was lost a week before the electrical firm arrived with their offer. Kees Molenaar commented on the takeover: "We did it because we want Alkmaar to keep professional football and because we are so grateful for what the game has done for us."

AZ'67 are outside contenders for promotion back to Premier Division football, fifth in the First Division, just three points behind second place Heerenveen after 23 games. Yet Alkmaar's support for their efforts is at its lowest ebb. Explained ex-chairman Gerrit Kaper: "Gates have got worse and worse. Back in 1968-69 we had an average of 8,198 per game. It has sunk to 3,000 and the last five home games brought an average 2,300."

The fairy godfathers remain optimistic, however. Promotion is inevitable under retained trainer Cor van der Hart, they say, which will bring back the public and up the revenue from advertising. More sponsors would be welcome, of course. According to Klaas Molenaar a financing, limited company with five or six sponsors is needed to keep AZ'67 going.

Journey

FC Den Haag are fighting a losing battle to keep trainer Vaclav Jezek. The Czech's visa runs out in July and the Czech football union thinks he has worked abroad long enough.

Said Jezek: "There is a big shortage of trainers in Czechoslovakia, so they want me back." The Czech view is that it's about time the trainer did something for his own country and a pre-Christmas journey to Prague to make a personal appeal failed to budge them. The Hague City Council even made an official request to the Czech Government, also to no avail.

"With the last elections we had quite a few changes in the ranks of those who can let me stay in the Hague," said Jezek. "This makes the situation worse. There's not much hope at the moment." Several offers have come in, including one from Dukla Prague, yet the Czech still wants to stay with the Dutch team.

Manager Eddie Hartman's comment was: "We can offer Jezek at least a two-year lengthening of his contract, but in this situation it is not up to us. We depend completely on the Czech authorities."

Launched

A means to greater revenue has been occupying Den Haag. At a meeting with Ajax, Sparta, FC Twente, FC Utrecht and PSV, the Hagenaars launched the idea of a midweek competition next season to be played over the period of the European Cup. Reaction—except from wealthy Feyenoord—has been enthusiastic.

Den Haag say some sponsors have already agreed to put up big prize money and, argue the club, such a competition would bring higher income for clubs, more bonus money for players, attacking football to a public which mostly sees defensive play and more playing chances for substitutes.

Eddie Hartman commented: "We could encourage attacking football in such a competition. For instance a player scoring more than three goals could qualify for an extra bonus." The idea is now with KNVB, known for their dislike of such competitions.

A formidable combination of the weather and the Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond put a stop to league fixtures for two weeks. Torrential rain scotched one and the football authority declared the frozen grounds of the second week were not fit to play. Now the matches are fixed for a contingency Sunday days before Ajax and Feyenoord have tough European Cup quarter-final fixtures.

Why, one wondered, could the decision not be left to the clubs and referees on the day of the match?

Johan Cruyff of Ajax.

Five friendlies were hastily arranged by clubs who found their pitches perfectly playable. Ajax went to Haarlem for a virtual workout, but would willingly have gone ahead with their home fixture with FC Groningen.

Ajax president Jaap van Praag echoed the question. "The boys told me Saturday afternoon they would like to play the league match and our field was as playable as Haarlem's. It would have been ideal for ourselves and Feyenoord to carry out our fixtures. Then we could have had a free weekend before the European Cup matches with Arsenal and Benfica."

Feyenoord trotted down the road to Sparta trainer Elek Schwartz when their Benfica draw was made. Schwartz worked with the Portuguese club for many years and knows it inside out. Forecast from Feyenoord manager Guus Brox: "I believe we can do it. Ajax will have more trouble with Arsenal—that team has nothing to lose any more."

Ajax, incidentally, take the field without midfield strong man Johan Neeskens, out because of bookings in the Olympique Marseilles fixtures.

TOUR WAS A DISASTER

LET'S not play around with words, shall we— the Hungarian national team's South American tour was an unmitigated disaster! Regular readers of this column (bless both of them) know that I have been campaigning year after year against these insanely long excursions, and now the chicken's come to roost.

After a hard and, at last, successful season, the F.A. decided that it would be a good idea to train and play in Spain and Brazil during the winter months. They took the squad away for 47 days (and nights) from their loved-ones, from the diet and environment they are used to.

Satisfactory results might have kept the players happy, but this is pure conjecture. The trip was organised by a professional 'tour-manager', who makes his living by arranging friendly international matches. There is nothing intrinsically dishonest about that, but this particular gent booked n ight-flights only, reserved places in cheap hotels, and fixed matches on consecutive days in places 400 miles apart.

Witnesses

Part of the blame must be put on the shoulders of this mysterious Mr. X (he is never mentioned by name, although eye witnesses say that he has got one), but of course, the F.A. should have checked the arrangements well before this ill-fated venture.

Unfortunately, Miklos Panesics sustained a serious facial injury in Madrid, and had to be operated on immediately. This mishap, plus the narrow defeat against Spain, upset the party and they travelled to Brazil expecting the worst. The pessimism was fully justified because 24 hours after arrival they faced and lost to Portuguesa at Sao Paulo.

Kovacs took over from Panesics, and Fabian was picked at right-back. In the 35th minutes, Marinho scored from a long-range free kick and Valdomiro got a second for the mediocre club-side in the 77th minute. 2—0! Earlier in the second half, Fabian committed an idiotic foul, and was rightly sent to the dressing room by referee Emidio Marguez.

Three days later, Hungary played at Curitiba, which is 350 miles from Sao Paulo, against the local club. Rothemel took over in goal, Nosko was one of the full-backs and Szoke came in for Fazekas. The result was again 2—0 —both goals scored by Helio Pires (who?) in the second half. Csaba Vidats was injured in the 60th minute and wasn't fit to play in any of the remaining games.

At this stage Illovszky had only 15 players at his disposal, and he was toying with the idea of asking for reinforcements. But it was thought that the footballers preparing for the new season at home were not yet ready for combat. So the weary party moved back again to Sao Paulo to play Palmeiras.

Fabian was drafted in for Vidats, and once again Fazekas was selected at outside-right. This match was a dull one until the 82nd minute, then all hell broke loose. Kovacs cleared a ball for corner, and as the players were taking up their positions, astonishingly referee Boschilla pointed to the penalty spot. The Hungarians protested vigorously and both Nosko and Szucs were sent off. Cesar scored from the spot and Palmeiras won 1—0. Nosko deserved to be dismissed but in Szucs's case it was mistaken identity.

Opportunity

The blond midfield player complained: "Awarding a penalty was a ridiculous decision, and Nosko pushed the ref. in the chest, he fell against Peter Juhasz who wouldn't miss an opportunity like that, and gave him a good shove in the back, then ran away as fast as he could. I was just walking towards them, when Boschilla turned round and saw me. Obviously he thought that it must have been me who kicked him, and he pointed towards the dressing room."

Manager Illovszky confirmed the story and fined Fabian, Nosko and—Juhasz. By then the atmosphere in the camp was funereal. They have played four matches, lost all four and haven't scored a single goal. The management decided, despite Mr. X's protestations, that only one more game would be played and the rest of the tour cancelled. The official reason given for the cancellation was that the visas for Peru didn't arrive in time. True or false? You pays your money, you takes your choice!

On the following day the Magyars played against Flamengo in the Maracana stadium in Rio. Even Joao Saldanha, ex-manager of Brazil said that it was sheer madness to play two matches within 24 hours in towns 400 miles apart. But the Hungarians, cheered up by the news that they were going home, gave the best performance, and with the help of two brilliant goals by Laszlo Fazekes, drew 2—2.

In Budapest there was much speculation concerning the circumstances surrounding this tour and Rudolf Illovszky gave a Press Conference to clear the air.

Experience

"First I'd like to state that it is unwise to preserve our image by refusing to play friendly matches. If we don't risk anything—we shall never improve. The tour was useful because it gave valuable experience to younger players like Szalai, who played against Flamengo, and Kovacs. Others might have learned that they must work harder and there is no room for complacency.

On the other hand, I must admit that it was a mistake to go to Brazil. I have been there six times, so I should have known that while their players are extremely good, the grounds are not suitable for training, and the referees are biased. I take full responsibility for this error of judgment. Let us hope we shall never make the same miscalculation again."

And so say all of us! I have great respect for Illovszky, both of the coach and as a man, and I'm sure he will do everything in his power to erase the memory of this unhappy episode.

The big question is, how will the tour affect the early season form of Dozsa and Ferencvaros—who will be facing Celtic and Zeljeznicar shortly in European Competitions.

As the Hungarian Press tacitly decided to regard the tour as though it never happened, I would like to ask our readers to tear out this page and burn it, or use it for any other suitable purpose . . .

Vogts injury will hit Schoen

WEST GERMAN World Cup star Berti Vogts is almost certain to miss the European Championship quarter-final clash with England at Wembley on April 29. And Vogts, a full back with West German champions Borussia Moenchengladbach, may also miss the return match in West Berlin on May 13.

The 25-year-old player broke down in training and went into hospital for a cartilage operation in early February. Doctors have warned him that he may not play again for eight weeks. That means he is unlikely to be back in action before mid-April, and will probably not have recovered full match fitness in time for the first leg clash at Wembley.

Vogts, West Germany's Footballer of the Year in 1971, won the first of his 41 caps in 1968 and has been an automatic choice for the West German side since then. He made 39 consecutive international appearances, including all of West Germany's 1970 World Cup matches, before being forced out of the international side through injury earlier this season.

His deputy in the European Championship matches against Poland last November was Bayern Munich's 20-year-old defender Paul Breitner.

Vogts' injury is a major blow to the West Germans for team manager Helmet Schoen is concentrating on containing England as much as possible in the Wembley games with defensive tactics. The Germans will be satisfied with a draw at Wembley. This would allow them to go all out for goals and victory in the return leg in West Berlin.

Vogts' injury presents Schoen with a king-size problem. Already the West Germans are desperately short of mature full backs with international experience. Schoen is not expected to give any indication of who he is thinking of as a possible deputy for Vogts until he announces his team for the pre-Wembley warm-up match against Hungary in Budapest on March 28.

Television contract

FIFA and three television firms have signed for a contract giving the firms exclusive world-wide rights for covering the 1974 World Cup tournament. The announcement was made by FIFA's Press Officer, Rene Courte, after a two-hour meeting of FIFA's World Cup Organising Committee in Beirut.

FIFA's partners in the contract are the West German television firms ARD and ZEF and a firm which covers Latin America, OTI. The amount guaranteed to FIFA under the contract is 18 million Deutsch Marks £2,160,000), Mr. Courte said. He added that FIFA were negotiating with the German organisers of the tournament on a contract covering merchandising, mascot, cinema and home films, cassette and sound recording rights.

Cologne and Nuremberg have dropped out as venues for matches in the 1974 World Cup tournament. The two German cities have decided that they were not able to build or recondition grounds to the required standard. Dortmund will now stage the matches due to be played in Cologne and the Nuremberg fixtures will be shared between Stuttgart and Munich under a new programme to be submitted by the West German organisers.

Ceylon withdraw

FIFA's World Cup Organising Committee have confirmed Ceylon's withdrawal from the preliminary competition. This made it possible to include both New Zealand and Australia in Asia Group B without their having to play an extra preliminary match.

Mr Courte reported that th Argentinian representative on the com mittee had said his country favoure increasing the number of teams in th final tournament from 16 to 24 for th 1978 World Cup in Argentina. Th and other proposals received by th committee would be examined by th FIFA World Cup Organising Bureau said Mr Courte, adding that a announcement on the form of the 197 competition would be made at th FIFA Congress to be held in Paris i August.

Mr Courte said that the committe had accepted an offer of a cup fro West German President Gustav Heine mann, which would be presented to th winning team in the fair-play competi tion.

Signor Ettore Sacchi has resigned a President of Italian First Division clu Napoli, and the entire team ha threatened to go on strike. These star ling developments took place o February 15. The reasons for Signo Sacchi's resignation, accompanied b that of five of the 14 members of th club's executive, were not immediatel revealed.

Seen and heard _____ by PHILIP RISING

Flashback to the 1970 World Cup finals . . . Berti Vogts of West Germany is tackled by Terry Cooper of England. West Germany won the match 3-2 after trailing 2-0.

Rhodesia suspension

SIR STANLEY ROUS, President of FIFA, has said that while Rhodesia remained under suspension, FIFA could not sanction teams playing against Rhodesian sides. He was answering a question at a Press Conference in Beirut on whether Scottish champions Celtic would be playing matches in Rhodesia next summer at the invitation of the Rhodesian Football Association.

Sir Stanley said there was a recommendation for lifting the suspension. "But it can be lifted only by the FIFA Congress after an application from Rhodesia to play Celtic," Sir Stanley said.

FIFA's Executive Committee have decided to consider Colombia's application to stage the 1986 World Cup finals. A small committee would be sent to report on facilities available in Colombia and a definite decision on the 1986 venue would be taken in 1974, said Mr Courte of FIFA. He made the announcement after a six-hour meeting of the Executive Committee. Mr Courte said the committee had also received applications from Japan, Yugoslavia and Peru for staging future World Cup tournaments in their respective countries.

Miami signing

THE new Miami Pro-Soccer Club recently announced the signing of Al Maca, a 21-year-old defender who formerly played with Brockport State University.

Maca is the son of Joseph Maca, the Belgian-born left back who played for the United States against England at Belo Horizonte in 1950. Like his father, Al was also born in Belgium but has lived all his life in the United States and began playing organised soccer in high school at the age of 14 years.

Longest game

FORMER Cypriot soccer player Garo Yepremian ended the longest game in United States professional football history on Christmas Day when he kicked a 37-yard field goal in the second overtime period, to give the Miami Dolphins a 27-24 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in the semi-final of the American Football Conference of the National Football League.

Earlier, just minutes from the end of regulation time, another former soccer player, Jan Stenerud, had missed a field goal from close range which would have given the Kansas City Chiefs victory. The Chiefs are owned by Lamar Hunt, who also owns the Dallas Tornado of the North American Soccer League.

Soccer-style field goal-kickers (a field goal is similar to a penalty goal in Rugby) are very much in vogue in American and Canadian style football these days, being able to kick longer distances with greater accuracy than the old straight-on style kickers.

LITTLE BREAK FOR CAPKOVIC

AFTER a successful tour of South and Central America, playing mostly against club teams—won five and drawn one—the Czechoslovakian national squad returned to Prague in time for Christmas. Most clubs then gave their players a month off before calling them back for pre-season training, usually in the mountains at first where general fitness is the objective and playing with a ball can only be done inside in a suitable gymnasium.

For Slovan Bratislava's top stars, such as the league's leading scorer, Jan Capkovic, there has been hardly any break. Back from tour with the national side, he found preparations already going on for what is virtually a world tour being undertaken in February by his club Slovan Bratislava.

League leaders at the winter break, Slovan are due back only a fortnight before the resumption of league matches on March 18, they have obviously elected as Dukla did at the height of their power that playing abroad was the best possible preparation rather than risk the chancey Czech weather in February-March.

Programme

Out via the United States, Honolulu and Australia, Slovan return via Hong Kong and have a heavy match programme, including exhibition matches in Australia against Brazil's Cruzeiro FC (with Tostao, Wilson Piazza, etc.) who will be there at the same time.

Transfers are officially permitted during the break but there has been little activity this year. Clubs with good players want to keep them it seems because they are in short supply. Ivan Mraz, back from his stint with Maastricht VV in Holland, has re-joined Sparta Prague and should add some punch to their attack.

One of the most sought after players is international left winger Miroslav Gajdusek who is due to complete his Army service this month. Twenty years old, several clubs are after including Dukla who offer him a commission in the Army, his old club TJ Gottwaldov (now in Division II) . . . and Sparta.

Footballer of the Year award for Pumm

NEWLY elected Austrian Footballer of the year for 1971 is former FC Bayern Munchen full back Peter Pumm, now with the surprise team of the season Alpine Donawitz. In second place in the voting was SC Rapid's Flogl and Kogelberger (FK Austria) was third.

It's not all good news for Alpine, however, well placed for a title bid only one point behind the leaders Swarowski Innsbruck, for there is considerable doubt about the future of Pumm's defensive colleague, Hanns Eisele.

Now 31 years old, Eisele has been implicated in the 'scandal' Inquiry that has made headlines in West Germany for some time and apparently in his absence he has been suspended.

His alleged offence occurred during his time in the Bundesliga with VfB Stuttgart and the first reaction of Alpine officials was . . . "nothing to do with us." That, however, was not the opinion of the OFB President who was quizzed at Vienna airport, en route for Japan and the Winter Olympics.

Former Rapid star Anton (Toni) Fritsch, known as the 'Hero of Wembley' when he hit two goals for Austria in their 3—2 success against England, has just returned from a stint in the United States. It seems he made some £20,000 for six months work—'kicking' for the Dallas Cowboys.

Kicking, literally, for it was in the American football game, not soccer, that Fritsch made his money, a code in which unlimited substitutions are allowed and given free kicks, specialists like Fritsch come on to take them and then go straight off again.

Now Murlasits of Graz has been persuaded to try his luck in the USA, kicking of course, for the New Orleans club.

Ernst Ocwirk is back in business in the top flight game, signing as manager for the Admira Energie/SC Wacker combination that was formed last summer. After winning the championship for FK Austria in 1970, Ocwirk went off to 1st FC Koln and the Bundesliga and surprisingly could not find a berth last autumn.

Also re-joining his old Admira colleagues is Willy Kreuz who went abroad to seek fame and fortune after topping the First Division scorers list last season. He didn't fare as well as Fritsch, however.

Willie Kreuz (centre) in action for Admira.

WORLD CUP 1974

AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1
Senegal v. Morocco
Morocco v. Senegal

Group 2
Algeria v. Guinea
Guinea v. Algeria

Group 3
16/18.9.72 AR Egypt v. Tunisia
25. 9.72 Tunisia v. AR Egypt

Group 4
Ivory Coast v. Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone v. Ivory Coast

Group 5
15.10.72 Kenya v. Sudan
22.10.72 Sudan v. Kenya

Group 6
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Mauritius v. Madagascar

Group 7
Ethiopia v. Tanzania
Tanzania v. Ethiopia

Group 8
30. 4.72 Lesotho v. Zambia
4. 6.72 Zambia v. Lesotho

Group 9
Congo Brazza. v. Nigeria
Nigeria v. Congo Brazza.

Group 10
Dahomey v. Ghana
Ghana v. Dahomey

Group 11
Zaire v. Togo
Togo v. Zaire

Group 12
Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1
USA v. Canada
Canada v. USA
USA v. Mexico
Mexico v. USA
Canada v. Mexico
Mexico v. Canada

Group 2
16. 7.72 Guatemala v. El Salvador
23. 7.72 El Salvador v. Guatemala

Group 3
3.12.72 Honduras v. Costa Rica
10.12.72 Costa Rica v. Honduras

Group 4
11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica

Group 5
15. 4.72 Haiti v. Puerto Rico
26. 9.72 Puerto v. Haiti

Group 6
Surinam v. Trinidad
Trinidad v. Surinam
Surinam v. Antigua
Antigua v. Surinam
Trinidad v. Antigua
Antigua v. Trinidad

EUROPE

Group 1
14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria v. Malta
6. 5.72 Hungary v. Malta
25. 5.72 Sweden v. Hungary
10. 6.72 Austria v. Sweden
15.10.72 Sweden v. Malta
15.10.72 Austria v. Hungary
26.11.72 Malta v. Austria
29. 4.73 Hungary v. Austria
24. 5.73 Sweden v. Austria
13. 6.73 Hungary v. Sweden
11.11.73 Malta v. Sweden

Group 2
8.10.72 Luxembourg v. Italy
21/22.10.72 Switzerland v. Italy
22.10.72 Luxembourg v. Turkey
Turkey v. Luxembourg
10. 3.73 Italy v. Turkey
31. 3.73 Italy v. Luxembourg
15. 4.73 Luxembourg v. Switzerland
9. 5.73 Switzerland v. Turkey
26. 9.73 Switzerland v. Luxembourg
20.10.73 Italy v. Switzerland
18.11.73 Turkey v. Switzerland
22.12.73 Turkey v. Italy

Group 3
18. 5.72 Belgium v. Iceland
22. 5.72 Iceland v. Belgium (In Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway v. Iceland
7. 8.72 Iceland v. Norway
4.10.72 Norway v. Belgium
11.11.72 Netherlands v. Norway
19.11.72 Belgium v. Netherlands
22. 8.73 Netherlands v. Iceland
29. 8.73 Iceland v. Netherlands (In Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway v. Netherlands
31.10.73 Belgium v. Norway
18.11.73 Netherlands v. Belgium

Group 4
21. 6.72 Finland v. Albania
20. 9.72 Finland v. Rumania
7.10.72 East Germany v. Finland
14/15.10.72 East Germany v. Albania
29.10.72 Rumania v. Albania
6. 5.73 Albania v. Rumania
27. 5.73 Rumania v. East Germany
6. 6.73 Finland v. East Germany
12. 9.73 Albania v. East Germany
26. 9.73 East Germany v. Rumania
10.10.73 Albania v. Finland
14.10.73 Rumania v. Finland

Group 5
England v. Poland
Poland v. England
England v. Wales
Wales v. Enginad
Poland v. Wales
Wales v. Poland

Group 6
Northern Ireland v. Cyprus
29. 3.72 Portugal v. Cyprus
10. 5.72 Cyprus v. Portugal
18.10.72 Bulgaria v. Northern Ireland
19.11.72 Cyprus v. Bulgaria
14. 2.73 Cyprus v. Northern Ireland
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland v. Portugal
2. 5.73 Bulgaria v. Portugal
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
13.10.73 Portugal v. Bulgaria
14.11.73 Portugal v. Northern Ireland
18.11.73 Bulgaria v. Cyprus

Group 7
19.10.72 Spain v. Yugoslavia
19.11.72 Yugoslavia v. Greece
17. 1.73 Greece v. Spain
21. 2.73 Spain v. Greece
21.10.73 Yugoslavia v. Spain
19.12.73 Greece v. Yugoslavia

Group 8
18.10.72 Denmark v. Scotland
15.11.72 Scotland v. Denmark
2. 5.73 Denmark v. Czechoslovakia
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia v. Denmark
26. 9.73 Scotland v. Czechslovakia
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia v. Scotland

Group 9
2. 9.72 France v. Eire
14.10.72 USSR v. France
24. 4.73 France v. USSR
16. 5.73 Eire v. France
USSR v. Eire
Eire v. USSR

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1
Uruguay v. Colombia
Colombia v. Uruguay
Uruguay v. Ecuador
Ecuador v. Uruguay
Colombia v. Ecuador
Ecuador v. Colombia

Group 2
Argentina v. Paraguay
Paraguay v. Argentina
Argentina v. Bolivia
Bolivia v. Argentina
Paraguay v. Bolivia
Bolivia v. Paraguay

Group 3
Peru v. Chile
Chile v. Peru
Peru v. Venezuela
Venezuela v. Peru
Chile v. Venezuela
Venezuela v. Chile

League Tables

DIVISION I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man C	28	10	3	1	36	11	5	6	3	22	20	39
Leeds	28	10	4	0	27	7	5	3	6	12	14	37
Derby	28	9	4	0	27	8	5	4	6	19	20	36
Arsenal	28	10	1	3	25	9	5	4	5	18	18	35
Man U	28	9	1	4	26	18	5	6	3	25	20	35
Wolves	28	9	6	0	30	14	4	2	7	18	26	34
Ttnhm	28	10	3	1	31	9	2	6	6	12	22	33
Lvrpool	28	9	3	1	25	14	4	4	7	10	13	33
Shef U	28	7	6	2	32	20	6	1	6	16	22	33
Chelsea	27	7	5	2	27	14	4	4	5	10	14	31
Stoke	28	6	5	3	21	15	3	4	7	10	19	27
Newstle	28	6	3	4	21	15	3	4	8	13	23	25
Leester	28	5	4	6	12	11	3	5	5	17	22	25
Ipswch	28	5	6	3	13	11	1	7	6	12	27	25
W Ham	28	6	4	4	15	12	2	4	8	12	18	24
Everto	28	8	4	3	23	11	0	4	9	5	21	24
Cvntry	28	5	7	1	16	12	1	5	9	15	34	24
Sthptn	27	6	3	4	24	20	3	1	10	13	34	22
W Brom	28	3	5	7	11	17	4	3	8	13	22	20
Hdrsfld	29	4	4	7	10	16	2	4	8	13	24	20
C Palace	28	3	5	6	19	22	3	2	9	8	25	19
Nttm F	29	3	3	9	17	23	1	4	9	16	33	15

DIVISION II

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nrwch	28	9	6	0	28	12	6	4	3	14	11	40
Millwll	28	9	5	0	26	12	3	8	3	20	22	37
Q P R	28	11	2	1	29	9	2	7	5	13	14	35
Brmhm	28	9	4	0	33	12	1	9	5	8	14	35
Sndlnd	28	8	6	1	29	16	3	5	5	14	24	33
Mdlbro	28	11	2	1	20	8	3	2	9	16	26	32
Crlsle	28	8	4	2	22	14	4	3	7	18	19	31
Bkbpl	28	7	4	2	25	9	5	1	9	16	23	29
Bnsley	28	7	3	4	25	16	5	2	7	19	20	29
Preston	28	9	2	4	22	11	1	7	5	15	20	29
Luton	29	5	6	3	19	16	2	8	5	13	18	24
Swindn	28	6	4	4	15	10	4	4	6	11	19	28
Oxford	28	7	5	2	18	10	2	4	8	11	23	27
Prtsmth	28	6	6	2	23	16	2	4	8	20	28	26
Shef W	28	6	5	2	21	15	2	5	8	14	21	26
Orient	28	9	3	2	26	13	1	3	10	11	31	26
Chrltn	28	7	5	2	24	15	3	1	10	17	34	26
Bris C	28	7	3	4	26	18	2	4	8	10	18	25
Hull	28	6	3	5	20	16	2	3	9	11	21	22
Ftlhm	28	7	4	4	22	20	2	0	11	11	34	22
Cardiff	27	5	3	4	23	17	1	4	10	14	31	19
Watfrd	28	4	4	7	12	17	0	1	12	6	35	13

SCOTTISH LEAGUE—DIV. I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	23	10	1	1	34	11	10	1	0	38	7	42
Aberdn	24	10	1	1	41	11	7	4	1	25	8	39
Rangrs	24	9	0	3	30	11	8	1	3	24	11	35
Dundee	23	5	5	1	22	8	5	4	3	21	17	29
Hibrns	24	7	2	3	21	9	5	3	4	19	14	29
Partick	24	7	2	3	29	20	3	5	4	16	18	27
Hearts	24	6	4	2	21	15	3	5	4	17	23	27
St Jstn	24	5	6	3	17	15	4	2	6	21	25	24
Mthrwl	23	7	1	4	26	21	2	3	6	11	26	22
Kilmrk	24	7	1	4	24	19	2	2	8	12	28	21
Ayr	24	1	5	6	7	17	4	3	5	16	21	18
E Fife	24	2	4	6	14	25	2	6	4	11	19	18
Morton	23	3	3	5	10	12	4	0	8	20	26	17
Dnd U	23	4	3	5	25	30	3	0	8	13	24	17
Falkrk	23	5	3	4	17	18	2	0	9	14	31	17
Clyde	24	5	0	7	14	21	1	4	7	11	30	16
Dnfmln	23	2	4	5	11	17	1	3	8	8	20	13
Airdrie	23	1	5	5	17	27	2	2	8	10	32	13

DIVISION III

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A Villa	28	14	0	2	32	5	6	2	4	22	15	42
Notts C	26	9	1	2	23	6	8	4	2	21	12	39
B'mth	27	13	1	0	33	9	2	7	4	16	14	38
Brghtn	28	8	3	2	19	10	7	4	4	25	20	37
Rhrhm	26	7	6	1	28	16	6	2	4	13	11	34
Swnsea	27	8	3	3	20	10	6	3	4	15	14	34
Plymth	29	8	2	3	29	16	5	3	8	24	27	31
Chstfld	26	9	2	3	20	11	4	2	6	19	18	30
Bris R	27	9	2	2	26	17	1	7	6	11	20	29
Shrwbry	28	8	2	3	28	14	3	3	9	16	24	27
Oldhm	29	6	3	7	19	29	5	2	6	19	21	27
Bkbtn	29	8	2	4	22	13	2	4	9	10	25	26
P Vale	27	6	6	2	18	17	3	2	8	11	20	26
Tranmr	26	6	4	2	16	9	1	6	7	12	22	24
Rchdle	27	8	3	2	23	13	1	3	10	15	38	24
Bolton	25	4	5	3	11	9	3	4	6	14	17	23
Wrxhm	27	6	3	3	22	19	3	2	8	14	22	23
Halifax	27	7	3	4	20	14	1	3	9	9	21	22
Walsll	27	5	4	3	17	11	2	4	9	17	34	22
York	29	4	6	4	18	16	3	2	10	17	31	22
Brad C	28	5	6	3	23	20	3	0	11	11	28	22
Mnsfld	28	3	5	6	8	18	2	5	7	13	22	20
Brns'ley	28	2	6	6	15	25	2	5	7	6	21	19
Trquay	27	4	4	7	21	24	0	3	9	4	23	15

DIVISION IV

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scnthp	28	8	5	1	20	8	7	4	3	17	13	39
Bnstfd	29	10	1	3	40	13	4	7	4	14	17	36
Sthprt	29	10	5	1	35	12	3	4	6	12	14	35
Grmsby	28	11	2	2	39	18	4	3	6	15	22	35
Lincoln	28	12	2	0	33	10	1	6	7	20	32	34
Sthend	27	11	1	2	32	16	3	4	6	12	20	33
Wrkgtn	27	6	6	2	21	5	3	7	3	13	13	31
Gllghm	26	8	2	4	21	13	5	3	4	18	19	31
Cmb U	27	6	5	1	26	11	4	5	6	16	26	30
Dncstr	28	7	4	3	23	15	4	4	6	12	20	30
Bury	27	9	1	3	27	15	2	6	6	9	18	29
Nthptn	28	7	5	3	30	16	3	4	6	15	27	29
Ctchstr	28	7	6	0	22	10	3	3	9	18	29	29
Reading	26	9	1	3	23	12	3	3	7	9	25	28
Ptrbro	27	8	4	2	35	18	0	6	7	14	26	26
Exeter	28	6	2	5	21	20	4	3	8	20	30	25
Aldrsht	28	2	8	4	14	15	4	4	6	16	25	24
Dngtn	27	6	6	1	20	13	2	2	10	15	40	24
Newpnt	27	7	2	4	20	14	2	2	10	15	32	22
Chester	29	5	7	1	21	10	0	4	12	9	36	21
Hrtlpl	28	7	2	6	24	21	0	3	10	11	32	19
Barrow	28	2	6	4	12	15	3	3	10	12	29	19
Stckprt	28	4	8	5	30	21	1	2	10	15	32	18
Crewe	28	5	4	6	18	17	1	1	11	11	29	17

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	24						35
Nimes	24						32
Rennes	24						28
FC Nantes	24						28
Sochaux	24						28
Angers	24						27
Lyon	24						27
St Etienne	24						26
OGC Nizza	24						26
Bastia	24						26
Nancy	24						25
Bordeaux	24						24
FC Metz	24						21
Stade Reims	24						20
Ajaccio	24						19
Saint Germain	24						19
Red Star	24						19
Monaco	24						18
Lille	24						17
Angouleme	24						13

John Immanuel of Bristol City finds his way to goal prevented by the unconventional methods of an Orient defender during a Second Division match at Brisbane Road.

League Tables

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Schalke 04	20	15	2	3	45	16	32
Bayern Munich	20	12	6	2	50	19	30
Bor. Mönchengladbach	20	12	4	4	53	23	28
FC Cologne	18	8	7	3	35	25	25
Hertha Berlin	20	8	7	5	27	29	23
Kaiserlautern	19	9	3	7	34	28	21
Stuttgart	19	8	5	6	34	32	21
Eintracht Frankfurt	19	9	3	7	39	38	21
Hamburg	19	8	5	7	33	30	21
Werder Bremen	19	7	6	6	36	27	20
Eintracht Brun.	20	4	11	5	22	25	19
VfL Bochum	19	9	1	10	32	41	19
MSV Duisberg	19	6	5	9	23	31	17
Fortuna Dusseldorf	19	5	5	10	17	29	15
Borussia Dortmund	19	3	6	10	19	46	12
RW Oberhausen	19	3	5	11	16	38	11
Hannover 96	20	4	2	14	26	43	10
Arminia Bielefeld	20	2	5	13	20	41	9

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	20	15	3	2	55	12	53
Olympiakos	20	13	4	3	36	18	50
Aris	20	10	7	3	29	12	47
AEK	20	10	7	3	29	13	47
Paok	20	9	7	4	28	13	45
Iraklis	20	7	9	4	21	18	43
Volos	20	7	7	6	16	18	41
Kavala	20	8	4	8	22	23	40
Patras	20	6	7	7	24	25	39
Ethnikos	20	5	8	7	21	23	38
Apollon	20	6	6	8	21	27	38
Trikala	20	3	11	6	22	23	37
Panionios	20	5	7	8	14	18	37
Aiginiko	20	5	4	6	14	32	36
Fostir	20	4	6	10	18	33	34
Veria	20	4	6	10	12	31	34
Pierikos	20	2	8	10	9	28	32
Nicosia	20	2	5	12	8	32	28

TUNISIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Etoile Sahel	17	9	6	2	29	11	41
COT	17	9	6	2	16	8	41
Club African	17	8	7	2	23	8	40
CA Bizerte	17	9	4	4	19	12	39
Sfax RS	17	5	8	4	12	13	35
US Monastir	17	5	8	4	11	9	35
CS Sfax	17	4	9	3	12	12	34
Stade Tunisia	17	6	5	6	13	11	34
EM Mahdia	17	4	8	5	9	12	33
AS Marsa	17	2	10	5	11	16	31
CS Chemindots	17	2	10	5	5	11	31
US Maghreb	17	4	5	8	13	12	30
Esperance	17	2	7	8	1	16	28
SRS	17	2	3	12	10	37	24

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	19	16	3	0	51	9	35
Setubal	19	11	7	1	43	12	29
Sporting	19	11	5	3	33	16	27
CUF	19	8	7	4	29	21	23
Porto	19	7	6	6	29	22	20
Belenense	19	8	4	7	21	19	20
Beira Mar	19	5	3	6	19	25	16
Guimares	19	6	6	7	28	30	17
Farense	19	6	5	8	19	23	17
Barreirense	19	5	6	8	20	31	16
Tomar	19	5	5	9	20	24	15
Academica	19	5	5	9	15	16	15
Boavista	19	3	7	10	15	24	13
Tirense	19	4	5	10	20	38	13
Atletico	19	4	5	10	21	32	13
Leixoes	19	4	5	10	19	34	13

ALGERIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CR Belcourt	16	10	3	3	38	15	39
NC Alger	16	9	5	2	30	15	39
NR Constant	16	8	2	6	16	13	34
MC Oran	16	6	6	4	18	17	34
JSM Tiaret	16	6	6	4	19	23	34
MO Constant	15	5	7	3	20	14	32
USM B. Abbas	16	4	8	4	14	17	32
JSK	15	6	4	5	24	22	31
WR Setif	15	5	6	4	17	19	31
Annaba	16	3	9	4	12	19	31
NAR Alger	16	6	2	8	25	24	30
ASM Oran	16	5	4	7	21	22	30
Hussein Dey	15	5	4	6	17	11	29
USM Alger	16	4	4	8	20	31	28
WA Tlemcen	16	3	4	9	18	35	26
ES Guelma	16	2	4	10	11	26	24

Action from the Italian Second Division. Manlio Muccini of Bari tackles Giorgio Facchin of Lazio. The clubs drew 1-1.

MOROCCO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Jadida	15	8	5	2	26	15	36
WAC	15	7	6	2	22	13	35
Fes	15	6	8	1	12	4	35
FUS	15	6	6	3	20	12	33
FAR	15	5	8	2	16	9	33
Settat	15	7	3	5	19	15	32
Kenitra	15	5	7	3	17	18	32
ADM	15	3	10	2	12	12	31
Mohammedia	15	4	6	5	15	14	29
Sidi Kacem	15	5	4	6	17	17	29
Oujda	15	4	6	5	11	17	29
Raja	15	3	7	5	12	17	28
Beni Mellal	15	3	4	8	17	21	25
Marrekech	15	1	8	6	3	14	25
Youssoufia	15	1	7	7	12	19	24
Agadir	15	2	5	8	10	22	24

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	21	11	9	1	32	14	31
Valencia	21	11	5	5	31	18	27
Barcelona	21	10	6	5	25	15	26
Real Sociedad	21	10	4	7	24	25	24
Malaga	21	6	11	4	20	21	23
Atletico	21	8	6	7	28	18	22
Granada	21	8	5	8	24	27	21
Burgos	21	8	5	8	24	26	21
Español	21	8	4	9	29	28	20
Seville	21	7	6	8	24	24	20
Las Palmas	21	7	6	8	23	27	20
Bilbao	21	9	2	10	29	19	20
Gijon	21	8	3	10	30	28	19
Celta Vigo	21	6	7	8	21	25	19
La Corogne	21	7	5	9	17	26	19
Sabadell	21	5	6	10	18	34	16
Cordoue	21	4	7	10	23	38	15
Betis	21	5	5	11	13	31	15

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	18	12	3	3	32	15	27
AC Milan	18	10	5	3	23	11	25
Cagliari	18	9	7	2	22	10	25
Inter Milan	18	9	5	4	33	15	23
Fiorentina	18	8	7	3	17	11	23
Torino	18	8	7	3	20	15	23
Roma	18	9	4	5	22	20	22
Naples	18	5	10	3	20	18	20
Sampdoria	18	6	6	6	16	19	18
Atalanta	18	6	3	9	12	17	15
Bologne	18	4	6	8	14	21	14
Lan. Vicenza	18	4	5	9	19	25	13
Verone	18	3	7	8	12	24	13
Catanzaro	18	1	10	7	11	20	12
Mantova	18	2	5	11	13	27	9
Varesse	18	0	6	12	7	25	8

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bruges	20	15	4	1	46	15	34
Standard	20	12	6	2	37	12	30
Anderlecht	20	11	5	4	41	20	27
Racing White	20	9	5	6	26	19	23
Cercle Bruges	20	8	5	7	18	17	21
FC Malines	20	7	7	6	23	15	21
Diest	20	7	6	7	22	31	20
Lierse	19	7	4	8	23	30	18
Antwerp	20	6	6	8	23	22	18
Union St. Gill	20	6	6	8	17	27	18
St. Trond	20	6	5	9	19	25	17
Crossing	20	4	9	7	14	22	17
FC Liege	20	6	3	11	20	36	15
Berschot	19	5	4	10	17	27	14
Waregem	20	4	5	11	22	32	13
Beveren	20	4	4	12	14	32	12

from ERIC WEIL

'Libertadores Cup' plagued by violence

THE South American Club Championship, for the "Libertadores" Cup, is being played for the 13th time this year. Readers the world over will have heard of the trouble at Inter-Continental Cup games between the winners of the European and South American championships—trouble which has usually been blamed on the South American contestant, but they may not realise that this kind of trouble has continually plagued the "Libertadores" Cup also.

As a result of continuous brawls on the field and some cases of alleged bribery of referees, the South American Football Confederation has, on a number of occasions, considered scrapping the tournament, while some countries said they would withdraw in disgust. Yet this year all ten member countries are taking part, with two clubs each, in what is the most popular tournament on the continent and, what is specially important in these times ,the biggest money spinner — which doesn't mean that all clubs have made money out of it. Some have blamed their financial difficulties on it, the latest example being three-times champions, Estudiantes de La Plata.

Participants

This year's participants are Peñarol and Nacional (Uruguay), Universitario and Alianza Lima (Peru), Olimpia and Cerro Porteño (Paraguay), Rosario Central and Independiente (Argentina), Deportivo Italia and Valencia (Venezuela), Atletico Nacional and Independiente-Santa Fe (Colombia), Barcelona and America (Ecuador), Atletico Mineiro and San Paulo (Brazil), Union San Felipe and Universidad de Chile (Chile), Oriente Petrolero and Chaco or The Strongest (Bolivia).

The line-up includes three former champions, Peñarol (1960-61-66), Nacional (1971) and Independiente 1964-5). Three more clubs divided the other six championships between them—Santos (1962-3), Racing (1967) and Estudiantes de La Plata (1968-69-70). On the other hand, there are five newcomers — Atletico Mineiro and San Paulo (Brazil), Atletico Nacional (Colombia), Union San Felipe (Chile) and Oriente Petrolero (Bolivia).

To three-time champions, Peñarol, of Uruguay, goes the honour of having taken part on most occasions (11) and played most games (100) in the competition, but Uruguay's case is unique. Nacional and Peñarol always finish in the top two places of the First Division and thus the country has never been represented by any other club.

Argentina, seven of whose clubs have played in the cup at one time or another, has picked up most points (259), followed by Uruguay (2 clubs) 251, Chile (6 clubs) 141, Paraguay (4 clubs) 139, Brazil (7) 120, Peru (6) 117, Ecuador (8) 103, Colombia (7) 85, Bolivia (10) 74, Venezuela (6) 64.

Brazil, placed only fifth in this unofficial table, stayed out of the competition for several years as they did not agree to vice-champions taking part.

Sixty-three clubs have taken part in the "Libertadores" Cup during its 12 years. For lovers of statistics, here are their records, in order of merit:

	Part.	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peñarol (Uruguay)	11	100	53	22	25	187	96	128
Nacional (Uruguay)	8	91	51	21	19	150	79	123
Universitario (Peru)	8	63	25	14	24	81	80	64
Boca Juniors. (Argent.)	5	47	27	8	12	36	44	62
River Plate (Argent.)	3	48	25	11	12	101	57	61
Guarani (Paraguay)	6	59	21	17	21	78	73	39
Univs. Catolica (Ch.)	5	52	23	10	19	87	77	56
Estud'tes de L.P (Arg.)	4	31	22	3	6	44	20	47
Palmeiras (Brazil)	3	31	21	3	7	45	30	45
Olimpia (Paraguay)	6	40	16	10	14	64	56	42
Independiente (Arg.)	5	34	17	6	11	53	37	40
Racing (Argentina)	3	27	16	5	6	54	26	38
Emelec (Ecuador)	5	45	14	9	22	53	67	37
Cerro Porteño (Para.)	5	36	12	11	13	51	55	35
Deportivo Cali (Col.)	4	33	14	6	13	55	42	34
Deport. Italia (Ven.)	5	40	12	9	19	42	75	33
Colo Colo (Chile)	4	32	14	4	14	56	63	32
Santos (Brazil)	4	22	14	3	5	60	32	31
Universidad de Chile	6	36	11	8	17	44	51	30
Barcelona (Ecuador)	5	35	12	5	18	44	56	29
Sport. Cristal (Peru)	4	30	8	12	10	42	41	28
Cruzeiro (Brazil)	1	12	9	1	2	17	12	19
Bolivar (Bolivia)	3	23	5	9	9	25	39	19
Wilstermann (Bolivia)	4	20	6	5	9	25	36	17
Millionarios (Col.)	5	22	6	4	12	26	35	16
Independ-S. Fe (Col.)	2	16	5	4	7	28	33	14
Dep. Municip. (Bol.)	2	14	6	1	7	27	34	13
Wanderers (Chile)	1	12	4	3	5	20	23	11
Liga Dep. Univ. (Ec.)	1	10	4	2	4	14	12	10
Union Española (Ch.)	1	10	3	3	4	11	11	9
Alianza Lima (Peru)	3	18	3	3	12	17	30	9
Dep. Portugues (Ven.)	1	12	4	1	7	11	20	9
Botafogo Rio (Brazil)	1	6	4	1	1	6	6	9
Fluminense (Brazil)	1	6	4	–	2	16	3	8
Dep. Galicia (Ven.)	5	30	3	2	25	20	63	8
Rosario Cent. (Arg.)	1	6	3	1	2	11	8	7
Medellin (Colombia)	1	10	3	1	6	12	22	7
Juan Aurich (Peru)	1	8	2	2	4	14	20	6
Dep. Quito (Ecuador)	2	10	4	1	5	7	19	9
The Strongest (Bol.)	2	10	2	2	6	10	20	6
Nautico (Brazil)	1	6	2	1	3	7	9	5
Def. Arica (Peru)	1	6	1	3	2	4	5	5
Nacional (Ecuador)	1	6	2	1	3	5	6	5
Union Magdal. (Col.)	1	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
America de Cali (Col.)	1	10	1	3	6	12	22	5
31 de Octubre (Bol.)	1	10	2	1	7	11	28	5
Valencia (Venezuela)	1	6	2	1	3	9	18	5
Dep. Lara (Ven.)	1	10	1	3	6	8	19	5
Un. D. Canar. (Ven.)	1	6	1	2	3	3	7	4
San Lorenzo (Arg.)	1	5	1	2	2	7	6	4
Sport Boys (Peru)	1	8	1	2	5	10	9	4
Juniors (Colombia)	1	6	1	2	3	4	8	4
Rangers (Chile)	1	10	1	1	8	11	27	3
Libertad (Paraguay)	1	6	1	1	4	22	13	3
EC Bahia (Brazil)	2	4	1	1	2	4	7	3
America (Ecuador)	1	6	1	1	4	4	14	3
9 de Octubre (Ec.)	1	10	1	1	8	14	25	3
Dep. Chaco (Bolivia)	1	6	1	1	4	5	9	3
Always Ready (Bol.)	1	6	–	2	4	3	17	2
Universitario (Bol.)	1	6	–	2	4	2	19	2
Aurora (Bolivia)	1	4	–	1	3	2	14	1
Litoral (Bolivia)	1	6	–	1	5	1	14	1
Everest (Ecuador)	1	2	–	–	2	1	14	–

Aldo Roy, captured in happy mood after scoring for Rosario, has been his club's outstanding player of late.

JOHN CRAVEN Crystal Palace (left) and PETER SCOTT Everton

GIANFRANCO ZIGONIN Roma (left) and NATALINO FOSSATI Torino